

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

BY MARCUS TANNER

"The Serb police executed everybody," said an old man, one of the few surviving witnesses.

Both sides have accused the other of torture. The Serbian government says at least 39 Serbs were tortured, mutilated and killed near the village of Glodjane earlier this month.

However, he made clear he would press ahead without his party's support if necessary. He said the Government must "listen to criticism but not be paralysed by it", and march towards its destination "through the thickets of disillusion, the ambush of oppositionalists for whom all change is betrayal and who long for our failure".

Labour would be attacked from both the left and right, but must "hold firm". He said: "Of course we'd rather be popular

Mr Blair announced a tougher regime for new claimants, who will be called to interviews with a personal adviser "to talk about how they can

Mr Blair adopted a positive tone on Europe, after criticism from pro-Europeans that sceptics were winning the propaganda battle while the Government remained silent.

pared to challenge the private motorist by allowing John Prescott his radical transport Bill. He drew a devastating contrast between the isolationism of the British right and the modernised internationalism of the centre left. The speech was an exposition of what the third way means in practice.


Tony Benn once said that Margaret Thatcher's great strength was to be a teacher-politician. It hasn't always been clear whether Tony Blair had the same gift, but after yesterday it looks as if he has.

Part of the lesson was that if the dividing line between centre left and right isn't one most of his party yet recognises, it still exists, and - whisper it softly - he is on the same side of it as the left is.

even though four hours is the recommended maximum.

Mr Gambino said the third patient had received heart tissue from two donors, rather than one.

"It will be interesting to see the characteristics of the response evoked by this immunological challenge," he said. Early signs were good, he said, with tests showing no signs of rejection.



I'm converted...

To **FREE Calls***

"When I moved to London from the US in January 97 I often telephoned my family and friends back home. After I heard that I could save money on calls by using PRIMUS, I opened an account and was amazed at just how much I saved. Compared with using ST. And all I do is tap in 4 digits before I dial".

Halah Kawash (London)
A real Primus customer!


CONVERT TO PRIMUS AND
START SAVING ON YOUR CALLS

USA	7p
AUSTRALIA	13p
SPAIN/ITALY	18p
MEXICO	29p
HONG KONG	20p
MALAYSIA	26p
BELGIUM	12p
GREECE	19p
HUNGARY	19p
INDONESIA	46p
SWITZERLAND	13p
ZIMBABWE	47p

THESE RATES APPLY ALL DAY EVERY DAY!
CALL SAVINGS TO OVER 230 COUNTRIES

CALL FREE ON **0800 036 0007**

www.primus.co.uk



9 770951 948535

• NO LINE CHARGE REQUIRED
 • NO INSTALLATION REQUIRED
 • NO NUMBER CHANGE REQUIRED
 • YES TO SAVINGS

PRIMUS

CUTTING THE COST OF CALLING

Primus is the only long distance service that lets you call 1-800 numbers for as little as 10¢ per minute. And that's just one of the ways Primus can help you save money on your long distance calls.

OFFICES IN • CANADA • USA • GUAM • HAWAII • MEXICO • PUERTO RICO • SOUTH AFRICA •

All prices shown are indicative of 1992, and are subject to change without notice. © 1992 Primus. All rights reserved. Primus, the Primus logo, and the Primus design are trademarks of Primus Telecommunications Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

INDEX

HOME NEWS

PAGES 2-11

National parks for Scotland

Loch Lomond and the Cairngorm mountains should become Scotland's first national parks, the Government's nature advisers recommended. Page 4

First test for work-hours ruling

An organisation that sets standards for management techniques is to become the first employer in the country to be challenged under the working time directive, for "running staff into the ground". Page 4

Big rise in number of lone parents

Britain has the highest proportion of one-parent families in Europe, with the numbers rising by more than 90 per cent since the 1980s. Page 9

FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 12-15

Greens set out their agenda

Germany's Green MPs - junior partners in the governing coalition - set out some of the demands they will be making of the Social Democrats. Page 13

Georges no more than a storm

Hurricane Georges was downgraded to a tropical storm yesterday as the swirling winds that have been lashing the US Gulf coast dropped below 50mph. Page 14

West Bank threat to Netanyahu

The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is calculating how to call the bluff of his coalition partners who are threatening to bring him down if he agrees to hand over more West Bank territory. Page 14

BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 16-21

Jobs gloom deepens

BMW warned of further cutbacks at its Rover car plants as manufacturing industry was hit by a further 1,150 job losses. Page 16

Hedge funds weathering storm

Not all hedge funds are highly leveraged monsters lurking out of control. Although most have been hit by the global financial crisis, 13 of the top 20 funds are still showing gains. Page 19

SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 22-28

England bank on old guard

The England Rugby Union coach, Clive Woodward, relied on the old guard when he announced the squad for the World Cup qualifiers. Page 22

Man United in Belgian link-up

Manchester United are to use Belgian club Royal Antwerp to groom their future foreign stars and solve their work permit problems at the same time. Page 26

WEDNESDAY
REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Ken Livingstone

'Like so many religious fanatics, the Millbank fundamentalists seem driven by an inability to construct proper human relationships, to find another outlet for their energies.' Page 3

Desmond Tutu

'Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it. It comes back nightmarishly.' Page 4

John Walsh

'Pretentiousness comes with the territory. It's a requirement of the job. An unpretentious wine connoisseur would be as much use as a surreptitious town crier.' Page 4

Robert Fisk

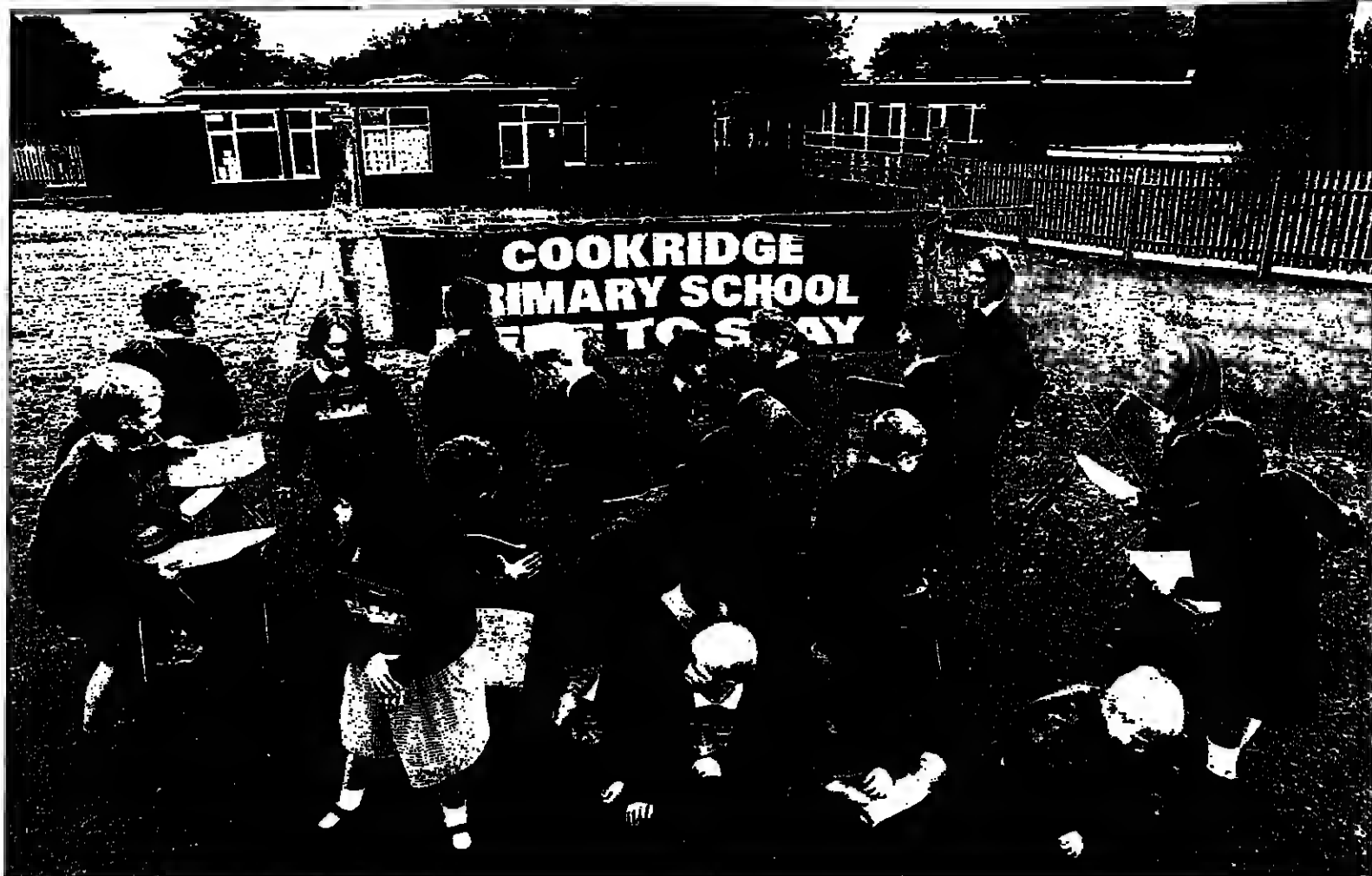
'Why do we not rage against those who accept the shameful idea that sickness must be "incurable", that our betters know what they are doing when they prefer missiles to medicine?' Page 5

Letters	2	Money	12-13
Leaders and comment	3-5	Finance	15
Obituaries	6-7	Secretariat	16
Features	8	Listings	17-18
Fashion	9	Radio, Satellite TV	19
Arts	10	Concise crossword	19
Theatre	11	Today's TV	20

Cryptic crossword, section one, page 28



Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997



Pupils at Cookridge Primary School raising the profile of their campaign to halt Leeds City Council's closure plans Peter Byrne/Guzelian

Children
in fight
for school
win aid

BY JUDITH JUDD

TWENTY CHILDREN aged between five and nine have been awarded legal aid to launch a High Court challenge over the closure of their school.

The children, from Cookridge Primary School in Leeds, are applying for a judicial review of the city council's closure plans, which are part of a scheme to reduce surplus places.

Both the council and inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education agree that the school is doing a good job.

Cookridge's headteacher, Stuart Tomlinson, said yesterday: "We feel the fact that 20 children and their parents are prepared to come forward and apply for legal aid is a measure of the strength of opposition to the closure."

Jonathan Cairns, the solicitor acting for the children, said: "The children have properly applied for legal aid because they are the ones who will be affected by the closure."

Papers were lodged in the High Court last week and a judge's decision is expected in about two months.

The school argues that the council failed in its duty to consult properly over the closure and that it is using out-of-date figures for the number of places in the school. Mr Tomlinson said the local authority argued that there were places for 420 pupils at the school but that was out of date.

Since classrooms had been converted to a library, changing rooms and an after-school club, there was now space for only about 325. When closure was first proposed, the school had 337 pupils.

The figures are important, the school says, because a government circular earlier this year told councils to focus on schools with 25 per cent or more surplus places.

Numbers this year are down to 272 but Mr Tomlinson says that this is the result of uncertainty about the future.

Class sizes fall but many still exceed 30-pupil plan

CLASS SIZES have been cut to 30 or under for 140,000 infants this term, a government survey showed yesterday. But 345,000, just over a fifth of five, six and seven-year-olds, are still in classes of 31 or more.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the figures showed the Government was on target to meet one of its key election pledges - the reduction of class sizes for all children aged seven and under by September 2001.

Conservatives immediately challenge ministers to prove that the reduction had not been achieved by increasing class sizes for older children or by restricting parental choice.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

In January, ministers were embarrassed by figures which showed that class sizes were still rising.

But a survey of 146 of the 150 local education authorities to discover class-size estimates for mid-September suggests that the number of infants in classes of 31 or more is 345,000 compared with 485,000 last year.

Mr Blunkett said: "This is a product of investment worth £22 million in revenue which has enabled schools to recruit 1,527 extra teachers, together with £40 million this year to new classrooms."

"These grants together with a further £560 million over the next three years for new teachers and extra classrooms will ensure that we meet our class sizes pledge ahead of schedule."

"Parents will welcome these improvements, which will mean smaller classes, more teachers, more classrooms and the safeguarding of parental choice."

Most infants, he said, would be in classes of 30 or fewer by September 2000 and the pledge would be met for all infants by September 2001.

David Willetts, the shadow secretary of state for education, said: "We have always said that if you pursue the objective or re-

ducing infant classes, you can certainly deliver it but at what price? How many parents will not be able to get their children into the school of their first choice because that would push class sizes above 30?"

He said the Government must also publish figures about unsuccessful parental appeals on admissions and on the effect on class sizes elsewhere in primary schools. Yesterday's figures are a projection based on returns from 88 per cent of all primary schools.

Estimates published yesterday do not show class sizes for primary school children aged over seven, which also rose last year.

At the beginning of the year, there were 832,700 seven to eleven-year-olds, up by 53,100 on the year before.

Government sources insisted there was no evidence of an increase in class sizes for the eight to eleven age group.

But Mr Willetts said: "Ministers must publish figures which show where schools are reducing infant classes at the expense of more mixed-age classes, and bigger classes in later years."

Visiting schools around the country, Mr Willetts said he saw examples of both consequences of the Government's single-minded drive to reduce infant classes.

Big cheeses snatched from the jaws of victory

IT IS admittedly terribly corny - but irresistible - to report that Jamie Montgomery is thoroughly cheesed off.

This morning the Somerset farmer was awakening to the prospect of his third consecutive victory in the British cheese awards in London. But even if he does again win gold medal in the mature Cheddar

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

category, he knows he will not be able to cash in on the extra sales that would be created by again proving he is big cheese of the cheese world.

Under the cover of darkness, thieves have broken into Mr Montgomery's refrigerated stores at North Cadbury and

stolen 275 unpasteurised, muslin-covered truckles weighing about five tons in total and worth £30,000. He is not insured. Hard cheese, indeed.

Organisers of the British Cheese Awards have suggested the theft of the 50lb truckles might have been carried out by jealous rivals. Juliet Harbutt, founder of the awards, said:

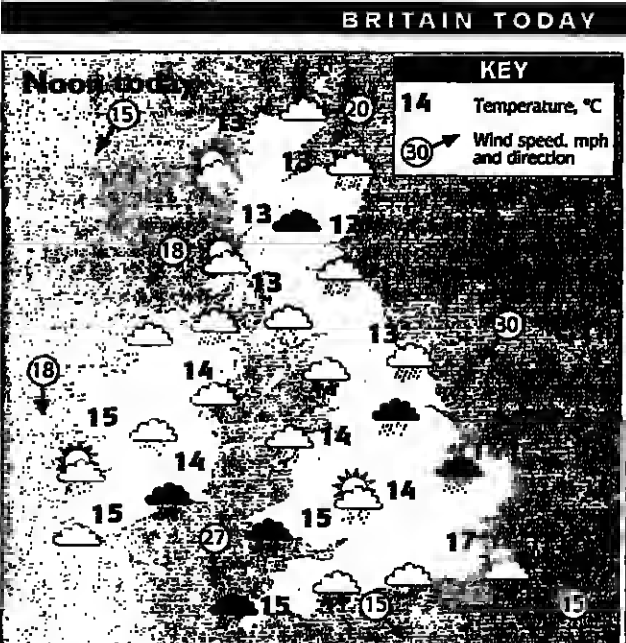
"You have to assume that it was someone from within the industry, otherwise how do you get rid of it? There is a strong possibility it is industrial espionage - of the highest order."

"The worst thing is that it might just get ground up and end up in someone's cheese and pickle sandwich. That would be terrible."

Mr Montgomery, whose 12-month-old Cheddar is made to a recipe perfected by his grandfather, is not convinced. "If there are people in the business who would do this I am very disappointed," he said. "It is possible, but it is not a theory I support." But he admits the thieves must have contacts in the industry. "It's not the sort of

thing you can just get rid of, is it?" Mr Montgomery's cheese is produced from milk from his 140 Friesians. When not being stolen by cheese thieves it sells for £6-25 a pound.

Not all the cheese was stolen. The samples for the awards were untouched and a third victory would provide some consolation at least.



FORECAST
General situation Heavy rain will move north across England and Wales. The east and south-east will experience rain, but some showers. North-west Scotland will stay dry until later but the east will be dull, windy and chilly with drizzle then sleet or rain.
SE & Cent S England, London, E Anglia, Midlands Heavy rain clearing then brighter but showery. Moderate to fresh easterly winds, easing later. Max temp 16-18C (61-64F).
SW England, Channel Is, S Wales Heavy rain becoming more showery. Steady rain returning later. Fresh to strong south to south-east winds, easing moderate variable. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).
N Wales, Cent W & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man Heavy rain moving in, becoming more showery later. Fresh north to north-east winds, locally strong, easing later. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).
E & NE England Overcast with coastal mist patches. Rain slowly spreading northwards, some heavy. Chilly, especially near the coast. Freshening easterly winds. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).
SW Scotland, Glasgow Some sun but clouding over with rain coming, heavy later. Moderate easterly to north-east winds, fresh later. Max temp 15-17C (59-63F).
NW Scotland, W Isles Some sunshine then clouding over. Rain this evening. Moderate easterly to north-east winds. Max temp 14-16C (57-61F).
SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen Fog patches and drizzle. Rain later. Chilly, especially near the coast. Fresh easterly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).
N Isles Occasional showers with brief sunny spells later. Fresh easterly winds. Max temp 13-14C (55-57F).

OUTLOOK
Wet and windy across much of Scotland tomorrow, some bright spells elsewhere but still rather cloudy, showery and breezy. Showery everywhere Friday but with a better chance of sunny spells to the west still rather grey and cool in the east.

TRAVEL
Roads: West Midlands: M5 between J5 (B5) and J2 (Dudley). Resurfacing work - narrow lanes. Until 12th October. West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Skipton and J42 (Leeds/Thames interchange) (M5). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November. Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 30 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999. Bedfordshire: M1 between J40 (Bedford) and J7 (Kilgobbin). New road layout with a 30mph speed limit during flood relief work. Until 30th November. Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. Suffolk: A14. Various restrictions in place. Until 31st December 1999. Cambridgeshire A1 between Alconbury and Hadden. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 31st December. A14 Roadworks: Call 0836 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

YESTERDAY

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	7.03pm to 7.25am
Birmingham	6.48pm to 7.10am
Bristol	6.51pm to 7.19am
Cardiff	6.56pm to 7.19am
London	6.41pm to 7.01am
Manchester	6.49pm to 7.10am
Newcastle	6.45pm to 7.08am

EXTREMES

Warmest: Glasgow 19C (66F)
 Coldest (day): Kilmall 12C (54F)
 Wettest: Seila Ness 0.93 in
 Sunniest: St. Andrews 7.5 hrs
 For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday

HIGH TIDES

	AM HT	PM HT	HT
Avonmouth	1.15 9.5	2.06 9.5	
Cardiff	12.48 4.5	1.10 3.7	
Dover	6.01 5.2	6.51 5.2	
Dun Laoghaire	7.35 3.3	7.49 3.3	
Edinburgh	12.19 4.3	1.02 3.5	
Greenock	7.10 2.8	8.06 2.8	
Hull	6.26 3.3	7.09 3.2	
London	5.46 4.3	6.26 4.5	
London (Albion Dock)	-	2.01 6.7	
Liverpool	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
Liverpool	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.15 7.1	1.03 7.3	
London	12.40 5.2	1.23 1.3	
London	1.00 4.9	2.00 4.7	
London	10.05 4.4	10.32 4.5	
London	6.1		

سلاسل الأزياء

Never mind the clothes, see the show

BY TAMSEN BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

INTRICATELY hand-carved wooden legs, improvised avant-garde choral works, models sprayed with paint by robotic arms, skirts made of wicker work or razor wire, revolving floors, drama, suspense, theatre.

No, we are not talking about the latest Andrew Lloyd Webber West End musical or Ridley Scott film. This is London Fashion Week and clothes alone are no longer enough.

British designers have a lot to live up to. The hype they have generated over the past few seasons means their couture alone will no longer keep the world's media happy.

The point was proven again last night. Young gun Andrew Groves attracted attention by sending out a five pound note and a razor blade with much sought after invitations to his show.

Simon Costin, the show's art director who has previously worked with Alexander McQueen, built a 22-metre catwalk out of "white powder" for the occasion, making the catwalk itself an art installation.

To succeed in London, designers need to follow in the footsteps of Hussein Chalayan and Alexander McQueen, the kings of performance art.

Both designers have broadened the idea of the catwalk show. For most designers, fashion week is about selling clothes. For Chalayan and McQueen, fashion is about theatre, atmosphere and peddling an image. Indeed, in some cases, the concept is more important than the clothes.

These are designers who have something more to say than "here's a pretty frock" - but their ideas have none the less made them the UK's most successful fashion exports.

Not only do their own collections make London Fashion Week unmissable for overseas press and buyers, McQueen also designs for the French house of Givenchy, while Chalayan's talents have won him the job at the American knitwear company TSE Cashmere.



The art of dressing, as seen in the work of Hussein Chalayan, left, and of Alexander McQueen for London Fashion Week



Ben Elmes

Chalayan's work involves music and architecture. His shows are precisely choreographed performances to which access is deliberately restricted.

The Atlantis art space in the East End was transformed into a stark theatre set; under the bright white lights, the conductor and musical improviser Gregory Rose, dressed in industrial white paper overalls, tapped his baton and a 30-

strong choir stood to attention. The complex work that followed was far from the pounding house music we associate with catwalk shows. But then, nor was there a catwalk, just a vast white performance space. Sniggers and titters rippled through the audience.

Not surprisingly Chalayan is accused of being pretentious. But he merely uses clothes as a medium for his art. His performance pieces could be held

before art, dance, or music critics as easily as the fashion word. They would be impressed. In the fashion arena, Chalayan's audience focus on the clothes. He has refined his minimalist designs to perfection. But the clothes themselves do not show make. The models stepped out onto the white stage in pairs, in precise choreographed symmetry, their clothes mirror images of one another.

McQueen's collection was shown on a set that took two days to build, with the unexpected addition of two robotic arms built into a wooden floor. For the show's finale, the American star model Shalom Harlow was frozen to the spot. The robots, borrowed from Fiat in Italy, sprayed her with fluorescent paint as though she was a car on a production line.

"The collection was about arts and crafts, and the relationship between man and machine," McQueen said yesterday, adding, "I'm just a bit mad in the head."

His role as fashion designer has grown beyond the making of dresses. He is the fashion world's provocateur. His work as an art director is regularly seen in the pages of the style magazines *The Face* and *Dazed & Confused* which the designer recently guest edited with the "Access-able" cover

story featuring people with physical disabilities. One of them, Aimee Mullins, modelled in the show helped along the way by a pair of beautifully elegant, hand-crafted haute couture wooden legs. McQueen's work is about image-making. "I am an illusionist for the next millennium," he says. Like Chalayan, he uses fashion as an arm of the visual arts. If he sells a few suits along the way, so much the better.

London's dedicated leaders of fashion



McQueen: Misunderstood

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, 29, is from east London. He has been described as a "lout" as well as a genius and a visionary. He calls himself a "job".

But this is all part of his hype machine. More precisely McQueen is a contradiction in terms. A genius fashion designer who hails from a working-class background, he has a natural disdain for the wealthy people who wear his clothes.

BY MELANIE RUCKEY

He also has the bravado to say what he thinks, but those beliefs tend to be misunderstood and reduced to sensationalism.

He graduated in 1992 from the MA course at Central St Martin's after training on Saville Row. He is a fantastic tailor, and tends toward the dramatic statement, while still creating

ing clothes for strong women. At first no-one understood his collections. Given names like "Highland Rape" it was easy to see why.

In 1997 he began work as designer for Givenchy, for whom he designs four collections a year as well as his own London-based line.

Hussein Chalayan, 28, was brought up in north London, but his parents are Turkish Cypriot.

Cerebral, emotional and patriotic, Chalayan is informed by Middle Eastern culture, often using his clothes - which are regarded as avant-garde art pieces that retain their commercial edge - to question fashion and body politics by restricting, revealing or concealing the body.

He graduated from St Martin's in 1993 with a BA in Fashion Design, and gained notoriety

with a graduation collection of dresses which he buried in his back garden with iron filings to create a rusted effect. Browns put these clothes in their coveted window space.

Since then he has used unrippable paper to make clothes (worn by Bjork on the cover of her album *Post*), used flight paths as surface decoration, and explored the nature of the Muslim Chador.



Chalayan: Worn by Bjork

ALTERNATIVE FASHION AWARDS

Nice try We like the cut of your gib
Darling, you were divine

Washout of the week

The rain... the rain. No, it wasn't an Alexander McQueen show, this was for real. Julien Macdonald's Saturday night show was watched by an audience of drenched spectators, thanks to hours of torrential rain.
Mwah factor

(Pearly) Queen of the week

Anna Piaggi, the superbly eccentric creative director of Italian Vogue, chose to wear her own homage to London style on Monday night. She dressed as a Pearly Queen, complete with cane and mini-Tribby.
Mwah factor

Venue of the week


The Plaza Cinema on Lower Regent Street for Sonja Nuttall's show. The seats were comfy, and excerpts from *Now Voyager*, the Bette Davis classic, was shown. When Bette says: "Why have the moon, when we can have the stars?" the crowd broke into spontaneous applause.
Mwah factor

Flounce of the week

No one had ever seen Mick Hucknall leave a show so quickly. He was miffed because David Beckham and Posh Spice hogged the limelight throughout the Antonio Berardi show. The cameras ignored him and his girlfriend Marilyn, who spent part of the next day looking for press clippings about herself - only to find the picture caption gave her the name of Hucknall's last girlfriend, Diddums.
Mwah factor
NIL

Ticket of the week


Antonio Berardi sent out a credit card instead of a ticket. Many show-goers wondered if the "Berardi Card" was redeemable for a pair of his fabulous sexy trousers. It wasn't.
Mwah factor



ONE Mercedes A-class
jungle green
FOUR seats removed
individually
ONE seat remaining
driver's
ONE baby elephant
African
sitting on flat floor

How can a small car swallow a large trunk?

FOR MORE INFORMATION 0500 20 21 20



A-class

MERCEDES A-CLASS FROM £14,495 ON THE ROAD INCLUDING VAT, DELIVERY, 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE, HOLIDAY PLATES, FIRST REGISTRATION TAX AND A FULL TANK OF FUEL. CAR FEATURED ALSO AVAILABLE FROM £16,495 ON THE ROAD. ALL PRICES CURRENT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. www.mercedes-benz.co.uk

National parks plan for Scotland

LOCH LOMOND and the Cairngorm mountains should become Scotland's first national parks, the Government's nature advisers recommended yesterday.

Scotland is one of the few countries not to give its finest landscape top-tier protection, though a Scot, John Muir, helped to found the first national parks in the United States more than 100 years ago. Bitter divisions between landowners and conservationists and the demand for local jobs have frustrated attempts to implement Muir's vision in his native land.

Suspensions linger and yesterday's proposals published by Scottish National Heritage received only guarded welcomes by the pro and anti-park camps. A final decision will be left to the Scottish Parliament. So far only the Labour Party is committed to establishing national parks.

Magnus Magnusson, SNH

By STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

chairman, none the less said he believed Scotland would have parks covering Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and the Cairngorms by 2006. "I would be surprised if the parliament jibbed at creating the first two," he said.

The two proposed parks are different in character. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs is a mix of lochs, hills and woods, near to Glasgow and the urban belt. Visitors flock in for water sports, to climb and to walk. The "Bonnie, Bonnie Banks" alone get two million a year.

The Cairngorms range, great rolling hills over 3,000ft high with deep, ice-gouged valleys, is one of the wildest tracts of land in Britain and home to rare semi-arctic plants and birds. But though subject to a plethora of special protections, its glorious Cal-

donian pines have failed to regenerate because sporting estates have encouraged too many red deer and hill paths have been eroded by walkers' boots. There has also been a long-running battle over the ski area below Cairn Gorm.

The parks would not have such powerful planning powers as their counterparts in England and Wales. Parks should be a "contract" between national and local interests, the SNH said.

Brian Parnell, chairman of the Scottish Council for National Parks, said the proposals "lacked the boldness and decisiveness" campaigners had hoped for. "There is really no way a park can be effective unless it is the planning authority," he said.

The Scottish Landowners Federation said it was "encouraging" that landowners had been recognised as part of the management process.



The beauty of the Cairngorms would be protected by national park status under Scottish National Heritage's proposals Colin McPherson

Save money, you've already spent.

Cellnet's FIRST programme guarantees to cut the cost of every one of its digital customers' mobile phone bills. Free.

And all Cellnet digital customers who sign up to FIRST before 30th September will get their saving backdated to 1st July 1998.

See instore now for details or call 0800 40 50 30.

cellnet first

cellnet it's in your hands

CONNECTION TO CELLNET IS SUBJECT TO STATUS. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. FIRST DISCOUNT APPLIED QUARTERLY. TELECOM SECURICOR CELLULAR RADIO LIMITED.

First test for work hours ruling

AN INTERNATIONALLY respected organisation that sets standards for management techniques is to become the first employer in the country to be challenged under the working time directive, which comes into force tomorrow, for "running staff into the ground".

Union leaders accused the British Standards Institution of forcing some of its 200 managers and inspectors to work more than 100 hours a week compared with a 48-hour limit to be introduced under EU law.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science, Finance union, said that staff were being run into the ground. "Of all the organisations we deal with, we would expect a body responsible for setting technical and managerial standards for industry to be a forefront of employment practice," he said. The Institution's inspectors assess the techniques and products of organisations to see if they qualify for a BSI "kitemark".

Sally Kosky, also of MSF, said a survey by the union showed that 94 per cent of employees believed their jobs were more stressful and demanding than a year ago.

Union representatives have asked management for "crisis talks", but said there had been no response. A memorandum from one manager declared

By BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

that, under the institution's policy, staff who were not prepared to meet tough new targets needed to "review their future" with the organisation.

One member of his staff replied: "If I were to agree to achieve this increased target I would be agreeing to work an average 89 hours per week." One of the contentious issues is whether time spent driving to see clients constitutes working hours under the directive.

A spokesman for the institution said management was "not aware" that any of its employees was working more than 100 hours per week.

The spokesman said the organisation took the health and safety of its employees seriously and there were comprehensive programmes in place to deal with such issues.

A staff survey earlier this year had confirmed that employees were "happy".

The executive committee of the institution was confident that its employment practices met all its obligations under the European directive. Referring to its refusal to meet the union, the spokesman said that the "best and healthiest" relationship between BSI and its staff was a direct one with their line managers.

IN BRIEF

Fatal fire blamed on boy arsonist

A BOY WITH a history of arson was probably responsible for a fire in which he died with his family, an inquest in Leicester was told yesterday. Malcolm Harcourt, six, died in his home with his mother, Teresa, 28, and sisters Kirsty, nine, Kelly, three, and Kimberley, two.

Police face inquiry over Menzon

AN INQUIRY was under way yesterday into the way the Metropolitan Police investigated the death of a black musician, Michael Menzon, 30, who was found on fire near the North Circular road in London last year. Solicitors for his family have complained about how the case was handled.

House prices still slipping

HOUSE PRICES have fallen for a second month, said Nationwide building society. They are down by 0.2 per cent this month, though in August they fell by 0.5 per cent. Sales were likely to remain flat. Nationwide said.

Eyesight eases Kidman's nerves

ACTRESS Nicole Kidman has admitted poor eyesight helped her cope with first night nerves in her London stage show - because she could not see the audience. *The Blue Room* is so popular theatre-goers are prepared to stand to see it.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Could Prime Health give you better cover at less cost than your current policy?

Call 0800 77 99 55 to find out.

quoting reference M13620NG

Prime Health

Pay less for quality health insurance.

0800 77 99 55

Gulf ruler's aide on death charge

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE CASE opened yesterday against a British horseracing manager employed by the president of a Gulf state, who is charged with killing his girlfriend, a former beauty queen.

Duncan Alexander, who works for Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was charged after the naked body of Kerry Blackwell was found floating in a swimming pool at 3am last March.



The pool at the Jebel Ali complex where Ms Blackwell died

Ms Blackwell, 30, a former Miss New Zealand finalist, worked as a bloodstock manager for Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum, head of the royal family of Dubai and vice-president of the UAE.

Details of both the prosecution and defence cases were outlined yesterday before a court in Dubai, where Mr Alexander, 29, ran a racetrack and showjumping stadium in the desert.

What happened next is not clear but Miss Blackwell was found floating in the pool: a nurse was called but it was too late to save her. The death certificate, sent to her parents in Auckland, said there was a large bruise on her forehead and that she died from a broken neck and the effects of shock. There were also bruises on her arms and legs.

Mr Alexander, who entered the UAE on a British passport and has dual British and Irish nationality, has told lawyers that his girlfriend of just two weeks must have died after diving into the pool, which at the shallow end is 2ft 6in deep. He was charged with her death two months later, after a post-mortem examination.

Mr Alexander, who has lived

in Dubai for about two years, was not in court yesterday for the hearing, which was conducted in Arabic. After spending five weeks on remand in a Dubai jail he is currently on bail - though the authorities have retained his passport - and yesterday could not be contacted. His solicitor has refused to speak to journalists.

The case, which has been adjourned until 23 November, has sent shockwaves through the expatriate community of the UAE, formed in 1971 from seven autonomous emirates - including Dubai and Abu Dhabi - after the withdrawal of the British colonial authorities.

While the courts will almost certainly ensure the couple's royal employers are not troubled by the case, the mix of sex,

drink, death and the links to the head and deputy head of state, has ensured the case has become a cause célèbre.

Mr Alexander, who has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, could face several years in a Dubai jail if he is found guilty.

Ms Blackwell's father, Maurice, general manager of an Auckland-based firm, has previously voiced doubts about his daughter's death.

"I was suspicious from the very beginning," he said. "Kerry had all her wits about her and I don't care how much alcohol she may have taken, I don't believe she would have made such a silly mistake as to dive head-first into a shallow pool."

But her mother, Dale Donkin, who is separated from Mr Blackwell, believes her daughter's death was an accident. "I feel terribly sorry for this young man under investigation," she said. "Kerry simply had a few drinks and made a fatal mistake about the depth of the pool. It was an accident. I am very angry that my daughter's death is being treated as something sinister when it was nothing of the kind."

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was in close contact with Mr Alexander and his family. His parents run an antiques business in Dublin.



Kerry Blackwell, who had been in the UAE for only three months when she died

Hi-tech makes yo-yos return

BY CATHY COMERFORD

PARENTS ACROSS the country are celebrating a blast from the past which has managed the impossible - tempting children away from the computer and into the fresh air.

The yo-yo is back. Children are queuing up to get one and shops are struggling to feed the demand as manufacturers report a huge increase in sales.

New high tech yo-yos have made the Tamagotchi old hat. The 1990s versions carry a clutch mechanism that makes old tricks much easier to master.

A spokesman for manufacturers Bandai said a series of skills tests or "Trickology" had revived interest. The tests required tricks to be performed in front of an audience and were marked.

In Japan, where, according to Bandai, the latest yo-yo craze started, skilled users are performing in front of audiences of up to 40,000 children.

PMS International, which also manufactures yo-yos, reported an outstanding surge in sales. Last year the company sold only a few hundred while it expects sales to be more than half-a-million by the end of next month.

But as with all new fads some caveats apply. Today's yo-yos are not as cheap as they used to be, coming in at £7.99 for the Yomega X-Brain, which has a clutch system. And for the Metallic Missile, which is made-to-measure out of aluminium, you can expect to pay around £130.

Cost was also one of the reasons headmaster Steve Wigley from Studley Green primary school in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, banned them from his school. Mr Wigley felt the high price of some of the toys could make them socially divisive. He was also concerned about the safety of whirling yo-yos after seeing pupils with them in the playground.

Prisons act to stop inmates forming paedophile rings

BY LUCIE MORRIS

THE PRISON Service has tightened its procedures to stop paedophiles helping each other to continue preying on children.

Research for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children shows paedophile networks are being allowed to form within prisons, where abusers are segregated from other inmates.

Some jailed paedophiles have managed to establish contact with outside abusers they know and children have been brought in to them. It was suspected that the children were to be abused by the prisoners on their release and that the visit was a "preview."

The Prison Service said it had taken comprehensive action after being alerted to the danger of children visiting sex offenders last May.

It will extend its use of Smart phone technology which will let prisoners dial only approved numbers.

"We only now allow visits [to paedophiles] from their own

children," Martin Narey, director of regimes, said. "We do not allow any other children to visit them. We routinely monitor correspondence and we only allow them to make calls to certain registered numbers."

He admitted, however, that in the past it could have been possible for children to have been brought in to visit paedophiles who were not their

parents.

"As soon as we had any indication that this might be happening, we moved very quickly to prevent it happening in future," Mr Narey said.

In a preview of sections of the NSPCC report, *Grappling With Smoke*, to be released in November, the charity says 240

organised sex abuse rings may be under investigation at any one time.

The research, by Bernard Gallagher of Manchester University, an expert in organised sex abuse, highlights two cases where abusers in the community wrote to abusers in prison. One, adopting a false name, visited paedophiles in prison.

The contacts helped in the setting up of new rings and "promoted" existing ones, and thwarted police investigations through methods including the planned harassment of witnesses in impending trials.

The report is intended to help social workers, police and others involved in dealing with organised sex crimes.

The Vectra Arctic.

At only £199 a month, you'll warm to it.



Don't get left out in the cold because you can pick up a Vectra Arctic with Air Conditioning and a whole range of other goodies for just £199 a month. It's also available with £1000 towards the deposit on a new car purchased on Choices 123! Time then to get your skates on.

- Air Conditioning • Alloy Wheels • Tinted Glass
- Metallic Paint • Tilt Steering Column • Rev Counter • Electric Front Windows • Front Fog Lights • Lumbar Support

FINANCE: STEP CHOICES 123

Period in Months	36	Then 11 monthly payments	£251.91
On the road price	£14,695	Charge for credit*	£3,330.69
Deposit	£4,227.20	Final payment to buy**	£5,922
1st 12 Months	£199	Total amount payable	£18,025.69
2nd 12 Months	£221.04	APR	13.9%

Contact Vauxhall on
0345 400 800

www.vauxhall.co.uk



VAUXHALL

*FINANCE DEPOSIT APPLIES TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, NON VAT REGISTERED BUSINESSES & MOBILITY AND IS AVAILABLE ON ALL VECTRA MODELS ORDERED BETWEEN 21/9/98 AND 31/12/98. FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE APPLIES TO Vauxhall BRANDED CHOICES 123 (TYPICAL APR 13.9%). WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE FROM VAUXHALL FINANCE, 9 CHAPEL STREET, LUTON. SUBJECT TO STATUS, AVAILABILITY AND CONDITIONS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. **INCLUDES £10 OPTIONS FEE AND £55 CREDIT ARRANGEMENT FEE, BOTH PAYABLE WITH THE 1ST PAYMENT AND ARE INCLUDED IN THE CHARGES FOR CREDIT. *BASED ON AGREED MILEAGE 9000 MILES PER ANNUM. CONDITIONS APPLY.

Echoes of Thatcher as the gentleman is not for turning

ALL THAT was missing was a blond wig and a handbag.

The Prime Minister stormed through a speech - with Margaret Thatcher probably watching on television, turning to Denis and saying: "He really is one of us."

I was transported back, momentarily, to a speech delivered to a Conservative conference at exactly the same point into the then Mrs Thatcher's government - 17 months after her election.

The manufacturing industry was slowing down, jobs were being lost and exports were becoming increasingly difficult. "Wets" and other siren voices were urging a change of economic policy. Her

famous line: "The lady's not for turning" was implicitly restated by Mr Blair yesterday as Tony's not for turning.

Of course the language was slightly different. We did not have any "No Turning Back" but we did have "No Backing Down", powered out with emphasis no less than four times.

Compare the two speeches, 18 years apart: "No policy which puts at risk the defeat of inflation - however great its short-term attraction - can be right" (MT). "So we have set a tough inflation target. We will meet it. There will be no backing down." (TB).

There is no doubt that TINA

(there is no alternative) is back with a vengeance.

The build up to the speech was worthy of any American presidential convention. Only the balloons were missing. Delegates hung from the chandeliers, swung from the balconies and stood in the wings.

A dramatic video presentation with music got them in the mood before the chairman announced our hero's entrance.

Suddenly he was there, our Tony: tall, radiant, looking good, oozing confidence and smiling his great smile.

A hushed hall heard and saw him dazzle and sparkle and he got straight into his stride - standing

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

with one foot 18 inches in front of the other, gripping the lectern as firmly as his party. Many in the au-

dience may well have been bemused and still find his challenge to modernise sticks in their throats. A few did not applaud in the early stages but he is a powerful speaker and knows how to use his soft and loud pedals to advantage over his audience. He can slow the pace, speed up, sound alternatively authoritative and similarly confident without shouting.

This melts all but the sternest of critics and by the end he had the hall eating out of his hand.

Half way through he mentioned Mo Mowlam. The hall went wild, stood, belovied and clapped until their hands were red raw. He departed from his text. "That's the first

standing ovation in the middle of a speech for a person who is not even making a speech". But Mr Blair knew in advance that this interruption would give the audience an opportunity to shuffle their backsides and get comfortable again.

Mr Blair claimed to be different from his Tory predecessors but it looked like window dressing. He chucked a few scraps of minced gristle onto the conference floor, such as the abolition of hereditary peers. But, even here, Baroness Thatcher will chuckle approvingly. She had more than her share of run-ins with grandees in the Lords and will not be sorry to see some of them get their come-uppance.

The only note of possible trouble came when our leader restated the support for family values. After the debacle of the John Major "back to basics" this was brave, and he pointedly coupled this with an appeal to the media not to go a-scandal-hunting.

He built on Gordon Brown's theme of "challenge" with no fewer than 18 references ending with "we rise to the challenge together". He summoned Cherie, and John and Pauline Prescott, and milked the moment with his arm round his wife. The Prime Minister left the hall basking in glory to face down any challenge from the faint hearts in the Labour Party.

Blair's vision to reform Britain

TONY BLAIR was given a standing ovation by party supporters yesterday as he urged them and the whole nation to join him in his radical vision to reform Britain.

The Prime Minister warned there would be no backing down on economic reform and spoke of the "burdens and responsibility" of government.

In his keynote address, Mr Blair pointed to Labour pledges that are turning the tide of rising hospital waiting lists and cutting class sizes.

Mr Blair said there would be an extra £400m of National Lottery money for specialist health, education and environment projects and extra money would be used to launch a nation-wide programme to make Britain's cancer services "the best in the world".

Health

There will be a further £30m to modernise 50 accident and emergency departments next year and a new £25m instant booking system for patients.

From next year, the Government would introduce long-term agreements for delivery of services, the first 24-hour nursing helpline and a new £1bn information technology programme linking all hospitals and GPs.

We've done more than we ever promised and, where we have made promises, we are keeping them. Where we are accused of breaking them, it is over promises we never made," Mr Blair said.

He pledged that modernisation and reform would "equip our country for the future".

"This way we face the challenge together and, if the spirit of the nation is willing, it can make the body of the nation strong. One nation, one community, each and every one of us playing our part."

Education

In a tough warning to teachers who were failing children, he said there were "too few good state schools, too much tolerance of mediocrity, too little pursuit of excellence."

He urged delegates, when the Government proposed fun-

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

damental reform of the teaching profession, to "help us get it through".

Why should not head teachers turning round failing schools earn £60,000 or £70,000-a-year, he asked? "But equally if they cannot run the school properly, they shouldn't be running the school at all. I say: work with us to get it done. Don't tell us we're unprincipled and unjust. For there is no greater injustice to inflict upon a child than a poor education."

Welfare state

Outlining his vision of the welfare state, Mr Blair listed a series of problems from "often chaotic and unfair" disability benefits to an "out of date" pensions system.

But he pledged: "I did not come into politics to dismantle the welfare state. I believe in it ... so when we bring forward proposals for change in our Welfare Reform Bill in the coming Queen's Speech, don't tell us it is a betrayal of the welfare state when in truth welfare reform is its only salvation."

Crime

The Prime Minister went on to announce an agreement between police, car manufacturers and the Government on a target to cut car crime by 30 per cent over five years.

He added: "And when I announce today that we will be introducing - first in 20 of the worst crime hotspots then across the whole of Britain - targeted policing that has cut burglary in Huddersfield by 30 per cent and crime on one Leicester estate by 23 per cent, don't tell us it can't be done because some of you have been doing it already. Don't show zero imagination. Help us to have a zero tolerance of crime."

Family life

Mr Blair told delegates that strong family life was the "basic unit" of a strong community and the first Government Paper on the Family would put for-

ward ideas to give practical support to parents and children, help in dealing with poverty, help in balancing work and family and action on domestic violence, teenage pregnancies and supporting marriages.

He said: "Accept that whatever our individual weaknesses, our collective strength lies in making the institution of the family work for the good of Britain."

Northern Ireland

On Northern Ireland, he said a lot was still left to be sorted out but insisted the Good Friday Agreement had proven that the "only road the people of Northern Ireland wanted to march down is the road to the future". "It is that same spirit of determination, and the power of the community, that should be the country's guide now in this year of challenge".

Mr Blair warned: "When you make reform, people will oppose you. They will stand up at public meetings and be applauded for attacking you ... some policies will attract attacks to the left of you, attacks to the right of you, attacks from behind and in front ... of course we'd rather be popular than unpopular. But better to be unpopular than wrong. And realise this."

The Prime Minister reminded delegates that in May last year the electorate voted for New Labour. "Loathing of the Tories was never enough for a landslide," he said.

"They wanted a new Labour Party. Not in the pocket of the trade unions. Not taxing them through the roof. Not chasing after every passing fad of the political fringe." Mr Blair added: "Yes, we are New Labour. But don't give me this nonsense that we're just a more moderate or competent Tory government."

What Tory government ever put £600m into our poorest estates in order to give them a future of hope?

What Tory government would have raised Child Benefit by over 20 per cent? Or given free eye tests to pensioners? Or four weeks minimum holiday entitlement to

Britain's workers? And what Tory government would have been prepared to increase by 25 per cent our spending on art and museums; not for what the sneer squad call hobbies, but because we believe art and culture are a liberating, wonderful addition to human experience and an integral part of the country we are creating."

Mr Blair went on to list the National Minimum Wage, backed up with the Working Families Tax Credit, trade union recognition and increase in overseas aid as key achievements of the Government.

He said: "Deny opportunity, leave injustice or discrimination unchecked and we lay waste the genius of the nation... when a young black student, filled with talent is murdered by racist thugs and Stephen Lawrence becomes a household name not because of the trial into his murder, but because of an inquiry into why his murderers are walking free, it isn't just wrong, it weakens the very bonds of decency and respect we need to make our country strong. We stand strong together."

Europe

Arguing for a more positive attitude towards the European Union, the Prime Minister hailed Gerhard Schroeder's election victory in Germany, adding that of 15 EU countries, 13 now had centre-left governments.

"Societies based on inclusion not division. Countries that are internationalist not isolationist ... this is the Third Way, our way of reconnecting people to political idealism in an age where political ideology is distrusted. It is no coincidence that the debates on devolution and Europe are happening together."

Prime Minister said across the globe nations were reshaping their identity as nation states and their future place in the world.

He stressed: "Of course we should be positive and constructive in Europe. Britain is stronger for it."

"Though Britain will take the decision on the euro in our own time and in our own national interest, meanwhile we work to make the euro succeed, prepare our business, educate our people and be free to join, if we wish to, if the economic benefits are clear." He added: "Sure, we have to reform Europe and we are winning that battle."

Mr Blair said when the EU helped Britain with trade, promoting prosperity, saving the environment, co-operating on cross-border problems like crime, it was doing what the EU should do.

But when it started interfering with every last detail of Britain's national life, "that's a Europe we can do without".

He insisted: "Decentralise where possible. Integrate where necessary ... we can play a leading role with others in Europe in getting reform. The others in Europe want us to. But we can't be leaders without being partners."

Mr Blair urged the conference not to fall for the myth about choosing closer links with the US rather than the EU because being stronger in Europe meant stronger with the US. "And the stronger we stand with the US the stronger the bridge we build between our European partners and our American friends," he said.

Devolution

Reflecting on devolution, he emphasised that the "enemies of the Union are the advocates



Tony Blair at the conference yesterday where he called for 'one nation, one community'

Brian Harris

of the status quo and the separatists alike."

In a strong warning to the Scottish National Party leader Alex Salmond, Mr Blair said: "We have defeated the one and we will defeat the other. The SNP want Scotland wrenched out of the UK and relations with England, can you believe this, run by a Minister for External Affairs, as if we lived on separate planets."

"Forget for a moment the threat to jobs, to industry, when 50 per cent of Scottish trade is with the rest of the UK. It is wrong in principle. It is the wrong values."

Mr Blair said that instead of solidarity, it was separatism, isolation. The SNP looked at England as the Tories looked at Europe.

"Enough of this narrow chauvinism masquerading as idealism," the Prime Minister said.

"Scotland stronger with England. England stronger with Scotland. Standing stronger together."

"That is how the challenge of change is conquered. Not by failing to make change, but by changing in a way that gives us strength for the future - when we have devolved power to

Scotland, with proportional representation; to Wales, with PR; to Northern Ireland, with PR."

Electoral reform

Turning to the contentious issue of election reform, Mr Blair sent a stern message to Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown, who called him a "control freak" in his conference speech in Brighton last week.

He joked: "Paddy, you've been in Downing Street often enough now to know that all major speeches have to be cleared through my Press Office. This one wasn't. So I declare it imperative."

"I believe in the co-operation we have had between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Where we agree - and there are many issues where we do - our politics should be grown up enough to say so."

He added that the forthcoming report by the Jenkins Commission on a new voting system for Westminster "should be listened to".

But he added: "Be assured. This government will decide on its response in the interests of the country, not in the interests of the Liberal Democrats."

The Prime Minister accused the Conservative Party, which has a three to one majority in the House of Lords, of arrogance.

Pointing to his willingness as Prime Minister to give up the sole power of patronage in appointing life peers, he said: "When we use the mandate the British people gave us at the ballot box to get rid of the power of those hereditary peers, I call that democracy."

"What is more, this supposed control freak will be the first Prime Minister to remove from himself the sole power of patronage in appointing peers."

The future

The Prime Minister urged his party to look at Britain through the eyes of a child growing up today.

He said: They're anxious too. More anxious than we were at their age, and no wonder.

"More violence. More crime. Drugs. Families breaking down. The old moral order under strain."

"I want for my children the Britain that you want for yours. Of course I want them to be successful, and go on to make a de-

cent living. But I want more than that."

"I want them to grow up in a country of which they feel proud. I want to build for them a country in which their children can play safely in the park and can walk home at night without fear."

"A country in which every colour is a good colour, and every member of every race able to fulfil their potential."

"A country in which the sick are cared for, and the weak are tended by the strong."

"A country in which every parent treasures their children when young, and every child cherishes their parents when old."

"That is a country to be proud of. That is a community worth the name. As our children's prospects rise, so our country's prospects rise."

"As our children grow in confidence, so our country grows in confidence. As our country grows in confidence, so the challenge doesn't seem so daunting after all. By the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone."

Letters, Review, page 2
Leading article,
Review, page 3

Impoverished student?



It costs you nothing to stay in touch.

- ▶ NO MONTHLY BILLS
- ▶ NO CONTRACTS
- ▶ NO CONNECTION CHARGES
- ▶ JUST PAY FOR THE PAGER

FROM ONLY
£29.99

PAGEONE
MINIcall **PAGERS**

Available at: Argos, Carphone Warehouse, Comet, The Link, Dixons, Currys, John Lewis, Department Stores, Maplin, Farnac, Staples, Jandy, Tempo and other PageOne authorised dealers.

For further information FreeCall 0800 905 505 or visit our Website: <http://www.pageone.com>

*Actual price may vary. For 24 months, one year contract. Cash price is average prices as charged in the latter of July 1998. Some restrictions may apply. See website for details.

STAY IN TOUCH • STAY IN POCKET

Bill v

Blair to meet Adams in arms

Notes

Is right

APR

13 APR

No 4

9.9%

Call free on 08

Bill will penalise rail firms

A BILL to penalise privatised rail companies for poor services will be included in the next Queen's Speech, after the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, won a rearguard battle to save it.

Holding consultation on the Bill could delay the implementation of the measure, but Mr Prescott will make it clear to the transport unions at the Labour conference in Blackpool today that he is not retreating from the White Paper on transport.

There were reports that Mr Prescott had been forced to abandon his proposals amid fears that charging the mo-

torist could prove unpopular with Middle England voters.

But his message was reinforced by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, yesterday with his announcement that congestion charging on cars will start in London. The power to charge motorists for driving into the capital - possibly up to £5 a day - will be included in a London Bill to set up the first directly elected mayor. Mr Blair told the conference the money will be used to invest in better public transport in the capital.

Mr Prescott will face fresh demands from the unions and the constituencies for more action on the rail services operated by franchise companies, including a call by Jimmy Knapp, leader of Mr Prescott's own transport union, the RMT, for renationalisation of the railways, which will be brushed aside.

But he will tell the conference he is determined to impose tough regulations on the franchise operators, including Virgin, whose service to the North-west from London has been heavily criticised by delegates for delays to the Black-

pool conference. One train carrying Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, left Euston an hour late because there was no driver.

The unions and grassroots supporters underlined their concern about the poor service from private rail companies by choosing a transport debate as a priority to air their grievances in Blackpool. They tabled a resolution calling for the White Paper to be implemented.

Mr Prescott is keen to squeeze the "fat cats" who have made heavy profits from the privatised rail operation by the implementation of

tougher regulations on services. "He will give the rail companies a good kicking," said one ministerial source.

There will be disappointment that the Bill will be published initially in draft form, with the threat of a prolonged delay before it is enacted, but Mr Prescott is planning to reassure Labour supporters that there are many steps which can be taken without legislation to enforce better services by the privatised rail companies.

He is seeking a tougher replacement for John Swift, the regulator appointed under the Tories, who resigned this

month, after signals that he would be sacked when his contract came up for renewal in November. The draft Bill will propose a strategic rail authority to enforce higher standards of service on the private rail companies, and Railtrack, the company that runs the network.

Mr Blair sought to lay that suspicion to rest, although he warned the delegates they would face criticism at the imposition of the charges on car use.

The railways legislation is seen by Mr Prescott and his team as a vital weapon to raise the level of service to passengers, which will prove popular in

Blair to meet Adams on arms

BY COLIN BROWN

TONY BLAIR will seek to break the impasse on the surrender of IRA arms at a meeting in Blackpool today with Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin President.

The Prime Minister has invited Mr Adams and the key party leaders in the Northern Ireland peace process to his conference hotel for a series of "hot house" meetings to try to find a solution to the stand-off.

It is a mark of how far the Northern Ireland peace process has travelled that Mr Adams was invited as a guest of the party to hear Mr Blair's speech, in which he called on the political leaders to "close their ears to prejudices of their own parties and listen to the prayers of the people for peace".

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was given a standing ovation after Mr Blair praised her role in the peace settlement.

But the gap between the Sinn Féin leader and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, over the decommissioning issue was underlined by Mr Adams.

He accused the Unionists of seeking to reopen the Good Friday Agreement. He said the



Mo Mowlam acknowledges a standing ovation yesterday, watched by Robin Cook, left, and Peter Mandelson

Ian Wardie/Reuters

Votes meeting scrapped

A KEY meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee was dramatically scrapped yesterday following fears that it would back a damaging motion opposing electoral reform.

The party leadership forced the cancellation when it be-

came clear that the NEC wanted to support anti proportional representation campaigners in tomorrow's crucial debate on the voting system.

The NEC embarrassed the

Prime Minister last month when its official submission to the Jenkins Commission, which is looking at the issue, came out strongly against reform and complained that proportional representation led to permanent coalition.

However, the prospect of the party's ruling body giving official approval to one side of the increasingly acrimonious row prompted officials at Labour's Millbank headquarters in London to intervene.

The meeting was due to go ahead at 7.30am yesterday, but The Independent understands that party officials panicked and placed notes calling it off under NEC members' hotel doors at 2am.

It also emerged yesterday that the set-piece debate on the issue, tomorrow, will now be as short and low-key as possible under a deal between PR opponents and Mr Blair's aides.

Hardline anti-PR unions such as the T&G, GMB, Unison

and MSF wanted a conference vote on the issue, but it became clear that the engineers union, AEEU, did not want to embarrass the Prime Minister.

The motion, which urges Labour to firmly back the first-past-the-post system, was eagerly anticipated by both pro-reform and anti-reform groups.

Party managers were keen to avoid any debate on PR at the conference, but more than 22 constituencies submitted emergency motions on the subject.

Yet as the AEEU is the official mover of the motion, it will have the final say and is likely to remit the motion, to the annoyance of its fellow unions and activists.

Instead, the compromise deal will give campaigners the chance to make their views clear in a brief, tightly regulated debate that will cause as little damage as possible. No vote will be taken.

Landowners may face access laws

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

MINISTERS CAME under pressure to introduce "right to roam" laws yesterday as a report revealed that landowners had failed to give greater access to the countryside.

The Environment minister Michael Meacher made clear to delegates that landowners needed to increase access to privately owned mountains, moors, heaths, downs and commons to three to four million acres.

He denied that the Government's plans to solve the dispute by voluntary agreement with landowners was a climb-down, indicating that legislation could still be introduced.

"No one is suggesting new rights to walk over ploughed fields or through gardens," he said. "But we do not accept that the legitimate rights of property owners mean that walkers have to be kept off uncultivated mountain, moorland, heath or down for any good reason."

A survey by the Ramblers'

Association, seen by The Independent, found that the landowners' "access register", compiled to prove landowners' commitment to extending access to their land, lists only paths already open to the public.

Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, said the right to walk in open country was a fundamental principle of the radical tradition in the Labour Party.

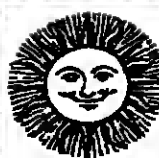
"Either we have the right to roam by the next election or we don't," he told the conference. "It is as simple as that. Even New Labour has to choose sometimes and we have to choose on this issue." He condemned the landowners' access register as a "con trick".

Twenty-five Labour MPs will stage a walk today in support of a statutory right to roam.

Mr Meacher said fines for causing pollution would rise.

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATED

GOOD DAY



◆ No doubt, Tony Blair, his radical vision of a new Britain was overwhelmingly endorsed by delegates

BAD DAY



◆ Paddy Ashdown: Mr Blair made clear that the issue of proportional representation would be decided in response of the interests of the country, not the Liberal Democrats

REBEL OF THE DAY



◆ Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, on the sponsorship of the conference by Somerset: "We have gone from super Marxists to supermarkets in just 15 years"

SOUNDBITE OF THE DAY



◆ Tony Blair on the economy: "Backbone not backdown is what Britain needs"

BEST FRINGE MEETING



◆ Gerry Adams, Sports Minister Tony Banks, and outgoing TUC President John Edmonds at the Tribune Rally, chaired by newly elected NEC member Mark Seddon.

BEST PARTY



◆ Easily the gala dinner at the Stakis Hotel where business leaders can shake hands with the Prime Minister for £400-a-head.

CLAPOMETER

◆ Tony Blair topped clappometer levels with a three minutes and twenty seconds long standing ovation, with 150db

◆ Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam was the first Cabinet member ever to be given a 27 seconds-long standing ovation, with 90db, during a Prime Minister's speech

◆ Environment Minister Michael Meacher could not compete with 20-seconds applause, with 70 db



Is Au right for you?

9.9% APR for balance transfers

13.9% APR standard rate

No annual fee

And up to 56 days interest free credit

9.9% APR balance transfers for 12 months

13.9% APR standard rate

Do you earn at least £20,000 a year? Are you 21 or over? And do you have a good credit history?

If you want to enjoy a great deal from your credit card, and you think you're the right kind of person for Au, call us free on 0800 000 197 today.

Au. Not everyone gets it. Will you?

Call free on **0800 000 197**

Quote Ref: R503

Rate 9.9% APR is for transfers under £1,000. Standard rate 13.9% APR applies to all other transactions. Subject to credit checks. Offer ends 31 July 1999. Balance transfers are subject to a 1% fee. Au is a service of NatWest. The company may monitor or report telephone conversations with the aim of improving its services.

TODAY'S SPECIAL

10 year Fixed Rate Mortgage

Wherever and whenever you want.

NotWest can offer you an excellent rate of 6.49%, 6.8% APR fixed until 30 November 2008. To sample this special rate along with an award-winning service, call us direct or pop into any branch. We'll order one up for you, wherever and whenever you want.

Call 0800 400 999
Monday - Friday 8.00am to 8.00pm, Weekends 10.00am to 4.00pm, quote ref: FIXED

NatWest
More than just a bank

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Telephone lines are operated by National Westminster Home Loans Limited. Calls may be monitored for training purposes. Credit is available to persons aged 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions. Mortgage loans are available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited, 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BP. Security and insurance are required. Written quotations are available from National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BP. Typical example: this typical example assumes a Fixed Rate of 6.49%, 6.8% APR, on an interest-only mortgage of £54,000 secured over 25 years, on a property valued at £96,000. The monthly payments would be £346.13 gross, £329.91 net. The total amount payable would be £108,582.05 gross, including £105 valuation fee, £140.05 estimated legal fees, £30.00 mortgage fee, £295.00 reservation fee and a £25.00 fee payable when you repay your mortgage. We have calculated this example on the basis that interest will be charged at the same fixed rate for the full term of the mortgage. In fact, this fixed rate is only fixed until 30 November 2008. There will be a charge if at any time prior to the end of 30 November 2008 you wish to repay the whole or any part of your mortgage, or want to transfer your mortgage from the fixed rate term agreed. In, for example, a discount rate or any other mortgage offer. If the Money Market Rate (the rate at which financial institutions buy money) is lower than the Fixed Rate at the time of early redemption, there will be a charge which is variable and depends on the difference between the two rates at the time of early redemption. National Westminster Bank Plc represents only the NatWest and Commerce Marketing Group for life assurance, pensions, unit trusts, other regulated collective investments and investment services. All members of the Marketing Group are regulated by both the Financial Services Authority and the Financial Markets Authority and are regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority. The "Best Bank" Award was issued by "Your Mortgage" magazine and was judged by an independent panel of 100 mortgage brokers. The "Best Bank" Award was issued by "Your Mortgage" magazine. It has been awarded jointly to us and Bank of Scotland Mortgage available in England, Scotland and Wales only. Details correct at time of going to print. Ref: 1297

Law and order: Penal reformers have warned against introducing 'macho policing' that could lead to inner-city riots

Blair turns to zero tolerance for crime

ZERO TOLERANCE policing is to be imposed on the 20 most crime-ridden estates and inner-city areas in England and Wales under a £32m initiative by Tony Blair yesterday.

The tough crime policy will concentrate on cracking down on persistent offenders, car crime, offences against children and black people, and anti-social behaviour.

But penal reformers yesterday warned against introducing "macho policing" that could result in "inner-city riots" and Home Office research has also questioned the effectiveness of the American style system.

In a second initiative the Prime Minister announced plans to cut the rising number of car crimes by a third over the next five years.

In calling for "zero tolerance" of crime, Mr Blair point-

ed to policing strategies which had cut burglary by up to a third in places such as Huddersfield and Leicester.

Under the proposals local authorities and the police will draw up lists of the most lawless housing estates and city areas or "hot spots" from which 20 sites will be chosen to receive extra resources from next April. Crimes that will be targeted include burglary, offences at school, problems at children's homes, racial attacks, alcohol-fuelled incidents, anti-social behaviour, robbery and violence.

A number of anti-crime measures will be used to reduce lawlessness, including policing in which the authorities take action against any offence, how-

ever small, the targeting of persistent offenders, better home security and diversion projects such as special areas where teenagers can spray graffiti.

The widespread use of zero tolerance is a tacit admittance by the Government that many of the current policing tactics and the increasing number of people being jailed is failing to turn the tide on crime.

However, latest research from the Home Office warned there were "large question marks" over its long-term effects. It warned that "over zealous" policing "can lead to poor police-community relations".

Zero tolerance is based on the American "broken window" theory which argues that allowing a climate of disorder to engulf a community would lead to more serious crime.

The approach was championed in Britain by Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon in Middlesbrough who gained national prominence by his use of zero tolerance that saw the crime level fall in Cleveland.

However, the policy was criticised after Det Supt Mallon was suspended and a major inquiry was set up into allegations that officers from Middlesbrough CID were threatening suspects and offering drugs for information.

Other chief constables have also questioned the use of zero tolerance.

Paul Cavadino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders added yesterday: "Some forms of zero tolerance involve the kind of macho policing which produced the inner-city riots in the 1980s."



A group of youngsters waiting at a bus stop on the Walpole estate in Huddersfield, yesterday

Tom Pilstan

Estate where detection of crime trebled

TONY BLAIR says the Walpole estate in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, is an ideal hot spot, so perhaps it was only right that I was accosted by a 12-year-old boy two minutes after arriving. "Hey mister," said the youngster who called himself Daniel. "I want compensation. Someone's nicked me bike."

And indeed they had. An hour after Daniel "found" his new bike, someone else on the pebble-dashed council estate had decided to "find" it too.

But Daniel's artful dodging is a mere blip. Four years ago this was wild Walpole in Huddersfield's Crosland Moor area. Burglary, disorder and violent crime was through the roof. Gangs of youths roamed and terrorised with impunity.

Walpole is by no means the worst ghetto Britain has produced. It's very average. Just over 340 houses cling to the steep Walpole Road that marks the boundary for the gangs that live here.

In 1994, the Home Office chose this estate for a pilot project called "Biteback", the theory being that most victims end up being repeatedly targeted, particularly for burglary. Huddersfield Police Division targeted burglars and protected the victims. In short, instead of blanket zero-tolerance policing it adopted quality not quantity. It worked.

Four years later, repeat burglaries are down 70 per cent, burglaries throughout the division have been halved to 2,000 and crime detection trebled.

Biteback was adopted force-wide and has been implemented by other forces.

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Gregg, at Huddersfield CID, puts the success down to a new system of intelligence gathering and crime-pattern analysis. Knowledge is power, he says. And that knowledge now comes from a range of grassroots sources. Taxi drivers, postal workers, milkmen, shopkeepers and landlords have all been enlisted.

This allows Det Chief Insp Gregg's officers to take the trouble-makers out of circulation. He prefers not to use phrases such as "zero tolerance" to describe the tactics. "We don't agree with zero tolerance. There's simply no point in deploying officers at random hoping to catch someone doing something. You must target your resources effectively."

Those resources include the use of special constables who work the area building relations. A six-strong gang was caught and locked up and the trouble evaporated. After the members' release they apparently reformed their ways. A local film-maker involved then in acting and has now charted the gang's activities and experiences in a 30-minute documentary to be shown locally on the big screen and cable television.

"They've become the estate's luvvies," said one officer. "But if they had a chance of making a dodgy 50 quid, I'm sure they'd still take it."

GARY FINN

Get the power of
digital communications through
your existing phone line.

There's a new digital highway, that will bring the power of digital communications to your home or office. It will allow you to fax or phone and use the Internet at the same time, and download faster than the fastest modem. Which means you'll spend less time waiting. And it does all this simply through your existing phone line.

To get on the **BT Highway** Freephone 0800 800 845
www.highway.bt.com



BT

BT HIGHWAY IS AVAILABLE ON MOST BT EXCHANGES AND IS SUBJECT TO SURVEY

WHAT THEY SAID

ANOTHER party conference, another crackdown on crime. A brief history of Home Secretary conference speeches of the past 20 years shows neither party has been shy about indulging in shamelessly populist rhetoric.

October 1988, Brighton. Douglas Hurd can't resist pandering to conference with pledges to introduce a new extradition law and a measure to seize terrorist funds - both of which were repeated in Jack Straw's recent anti-terror Bill. "We want to prevent London from being a haven for foreign criminals whom our friends want to bring to justice."



October 1990, Bournemouth. David Waddington tells the hangers and floggers what they want to hear. "I am absolutely sure in my own mind that some people minded to commit murder would be deterred from doing so if capital punishment existed." Mr Waddington also pre-empted Mr Straw with pledges to extend by-laws to "sweep drunken louts off the streets".

October 1994, Bournemouth. Michael Howard delivers 27-point package. Including measures to remove the right to silence. Less than half of the plan was implemented.

October 1995, Blackpool. Mr Howard goes one step further, with longer sentences for habitual offenders. "Some people won't like it. They'll say it's too tough. I've got a simple answer. If you don't want the time, don't do the crime. No half-time sentences for full-time crimes," he said.



October 1997, Brighton. Weeks before his son is arrested for drug possession, Jack Straw dismisses calls to legalise cannabis. "Drugs wreck lives, we will not legitimise their use." He promises to make race violence and harassment a specific offence. "I want zero tolerance of crime in our neighbourhoods."



Christe
alling

Appeal for
over drug

first direct
2

1. free but
every day
2. always
you'll be
for 24 hour b.
0800

One family in four now lone-parent



The rite of christening still holds wide appeal, though many parents are turning to secular naming ceremonies

David Rose

BRITAIN HAS the highest proportion of one-parent families in Europe, with the numbers rising by more than 90 per cent since the 1980s, according to figures released yesterday.

Lone parents in the UK also tend to have lower incomes, are more likely to be unemployed and have lower educational qualifications than their continental counterparts.

A total of 1.6 million single parents in Britain means that they now account for 23 per cent of all families with dependent children, compared with an EU average of 14 per cent.

The European figures from Eurostat, the EU's statistical office in Luxembourg, show that while the numbers have risen by 94 per cent in Britain since 1983, there has been only a 38 per cent rise in the European Union as a whole.

Only in Ireland are the numbers rising more sharply - with a 100 per cent increase in one-parent families to 65,000, accounting for 13 per cent of all families.

Greece has the lowest number of one-parent families at just 7 per cent. Spain is the next lowest with 8 per cent and Italy, Luxembourg and Holland all have 11 per cent.

As a whole the European Union now has nearly 7 million lone parents. It says the rise from 9 per cent of all families to 14 per cent is "one of the most striking demographic and social trends in recent years". Lone parents have been

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

EUROPE'S LONE PARENTS	
Single-parent families as % of all families with dependent children	
UK	23
Ireland	13
France	12
Belgium	11
Austria	11
Germany	11
Netherlands	11
Portugal	11
Italy	11
Spain	8
Greece	7

in 1986, compared with 84 per cent of lone fathers.

Overall, lone mothers are more likely to be in the labour market than other mothers with dependent children - except, again, in the UK. Here they are 25 per cent less likely to be economically active than other mothers. On average a third of lone mothers worked part-time.

While nearly half of lone mothers around Europe aged 25-64 had completed upper secondary education or held a university degree, in the UK the figure was as low as 36 per cent.

"The two main routes into lone parenthood - the breakdown of a relationship and the birth of a child outside marriage - have increased considerably since the early-70s," said the EU report.

"For example, the country with the largest proportion of single parents - the UK - has the highest divorce rate in the Union and the relatively large number of children born outside marriage."

The National Council of One Parent Families said: "It highlights the disgrace that one-parent families continue to live on woefully inadequate incomes."

"We welcome the Government's policies to make it easier for lone parents to get back into work, but there will always be some lone parents who cannot work and need to be lifted out of poverty."

Christenings falling fast

ONE THIRD of new parents would like a secular naming ceremony for their baby, a survey found, as the number of christenings continues to fall.

Only one infant in four is now christened, continuing a trend that has been apparent for more than half a century. However, most parents still like the idea of some sort of ceremony, with more than three-quarters of those questioned saying they support a traditional service in principle.

But more than six out of ten said that parents are pressurised by friends and family into having their children christened and a third thought it was hypocritical of non-churchgoers to have a religious ceremony.

The NOP survey for *Bella* magazines, of nearly 1,000 adults, found that a third would consider having a secular ceremony, such as those suggested by the British Humanist Association and the Baby Naming Society.

Earlier this year it was revealed the Government is considering the introduction of register office ceremonies where parents can vow to "care, protect and nurture" their baby.

Steve Jenkins, spokesman

BY GLENDA COOPER

for the Church of England, confirmed the figures had decreased for infant baptism although there had been a rise in those who chose to be baptised when they were older.

"There certainly has been a drop but that is because people no longer feel required to have a baptism but do it by choice," he said. "Exactly the same thing has happened with confirmation. Obviously I would think it would be wonderful if everyone was baptised but on the other hand it's right that people should want to do it rather than have to."

A christening was different from a naming ceremony because it welcomed the child into the church and laid out parents' and godparents' responsibilities, he added. "It's a very important ceremony."

Robert Ashby of the British Humanist Association, which sends out about 2,000 leaflets a year on naming ceremonies, said that the decline in baptism was due to lower numbers of churchgoers as well as the increasingly multicultural, multi-faith nature of society. "Non-religious naming ceremonies can be really good occasions," he said.

Appeal for action over drug-drivers

THE GOVERNMENT is being urged to tackle the growing problem of "drug driving" through a big education programme. Illegal drug-takers now account for one in five of all motoring deaths in Britain, a team of 11 medical experts commissioned by the Automobile Association says.

Figures show that in 18 per cent of motoring deaths in Britain, traces of illegal drugs were found. In 75 per cent of those deaths, cannabis was found in the person's bloodstream.

But most people driving under the influence of illegal and legal drugs do not know they are breaking the law, the experts say today in a discussion paper, which goes on to point out that it costs police £50 to do the necessary tests to prosecute a driver believed to be under the influence of drugs.

The panel wants the departments of health and transport and the Home Office to re-examine their policies on accidents where people are found to have been influenced by drugs.

Dixons

NEW DEALS FROM SONY

SAVE UP TO £100 ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

LOWEST EVER PRICE

SONY CFD-S37L
• FM/MW/LW digital tuner.
• 30 station presets.
• Remote control.
Was £119.99. **£109.99** **SAVE £10**

PERSONAL HI-FI SAVE UP TO £30

SONY EX500 SILVER
• Personal stereo.
• Remote control.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Best bass.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
• Up to 20 hours playback.
Was £54.99. **£49.99** **SAVE £5**

FREE

SONY FX15
• Personal stereo.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £59.99. **£59.99** **SAVE £10**

FREE

SONY DE4000
• Personal CD player.
• ESP shock protection.
• Car kit.
• Best bass.
• Up to 14 hours playback.
• Programmable CD.
Was £159.99. **£149.99** **SAVE £10**

FREE

SONY DE4000
• Personal CD player.
• ESP shock protection.
• Car kit.
• Best bass.
• Up to 14 hours playback.
• Programmable CD.
Was £159.99. **£149.99** **SAVE £10**

FREE

SONY DE4000
• Personal CD player.
• ESP shock protection.
• Car kit.
• Best bass.
• Up to 14 hours playback.
• Programmable CD.
Was £159.99. **£149.99** **SAVE £10**

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better! Dixons Price Promise ensures EVERY single price in-store is unbeatable.

If you find the same offer cheaper locally, notify us within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference. The product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery. Mail order excluded.

3 WAYS TO BUY

1. OVER 230 STORES NATIONWIDE
2. ORDER HOTLINE 0800 68 28 68
3. ON-LINE SHOP www.dixons.co.uk

HI-FI SAVE UP TO £100

SONY PNC-107
• Compact disc player.
• Programmable CD player.
• Digital tuner with 30 presets.
• Electronic equaliser CD model.
• 2x5 watts RMS power output.
Was £129.99. **£129.99** **SAVE £10**

FREE

SONY AHC-RX30
• Hi-Fi system.
• 2x100 watts (8Ω) power output.
• 2x100 watts (16Ω) power output.
• 2x5 watts RMS power output.
Was £359.99. **£359.99** **SAVE £40**

FREE

SONY MDT-15
• Mini Hi-Fi system.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £429.99. **£429.99** **SAVE £20**

FREE

SONY MHC-RX70
• Mini Hi-Fi system.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £499.99. **£499.99** **SAVE £100**

FREE

SONY MHC-RX70
• Mini Hi-Fi system.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £499.99. **£499.99** **SAVE £100**

FREE

SONY MHC-RX70
• Mini Hi-Fi system.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £499.99. **£499.99** **SAVE £100**

FREE

SONY MHC-RX70
• Mini Hi-Fi system.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £499.99. **£499.99** **SAVE £100**

FREE

SONY MHC-RX70
• Mini Hi-Fi system.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £499.99. **£499.99** **SAVE £100**

FREE

SONY MHC-RX70
• Mini Hi-Fi system.
• AM/FM radio.
• Auto-reverse playback.
• Dolby-B noise reduction.
Was £499.99. **£499.99** **SAVE £100**

SENSATIONAL SONY OFFERS

SAVE UP TO £20 ON VIDEO

SAVE UP TO £100 ON CAMCORDERS

FREE HEADPHONES AND REMIX CD ON ALL MINI HI-FI

FREE 3 MINIDISC TTILES AND STAND ON ALL MINIDISC HI-FI

FREE ROLLERBLADE MAILBAG ON ALL CD PERSONAL HI-FI & ALL CD STEREO RADIOS

CAMCORDERS SAVE UP TO £100

SONY RUVI CAMCORDER WITH 3x OPTICAL ZOOM

- 25" LCD monitor.
- Photo-mode records up to 350 still images.
- Built-in speaker.
- Autolocus system.
- 30 minutes video recording.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£549.99 **SAVE £50**

SONY TRV5

• 25" LCD monitor.
- 0.2 lux low light capability.
- 6 programme auto-exposure modes.
- 8 picture effect modes.
- 30 minutes video recording.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£549.99 **SAVE £50**

SONY PC1

• 25" LCD monitor.
- 0.2 lux low light capability.
- 6 programme auto-exposure modes.
- 8 picture effect modes.
- 30 minutes video recording.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£1399.99 **SAVE £100**

SONY KLV-2002

• 20" wide-screen display.
- 100,000 hours lifetime.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£829.99 **SAVE £20**

SONY KLV-2002

• 20" wide-screen display.
- 100,000 hours lifetime.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£829.99 **SAVE £20**

SONY KLV-2002

• 20" wide-screen display.
- 100,000 hours lifetime.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£829.99 **SAVE £20**

SONY KLV-2002

• 20" wide-screen display.
- 100,000 hours lifetime.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£829.99 **SAVE £20**

SONY KLV-2002

• 20" wide-screen display.
- 100,000 hours lifetime.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£829.99 **SAVE £20**

SONY KLV-2002

• 20" wide-screen display.
- 100,000 hours lifetime.
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

£829.99 **SAVE £20**

first direct

2 reasons to change to free 24 hour banking

1. free banking no charges for everyday transactions in the UK
2. always open you bank when you want

for 24 hour banking call free **0800 24 24 24**

please quote ref. 88813 www.firstdirect.co.uk

For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Freeport, Leeds LS96 2PR. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over.

INTEREST FREE OPTION

Account is interest free if repaid in full before for with the 6th, 9th or 12th monthly payment according to the Option Period indicated on the relevant product.

0% INTEREST

Example: 9 monthly payments of £1250 and the balance of £367.71 repaid by the 9th monthly payment. (Total repaid £11,812.71. Interest £0.00)

29.5% APR

£2 monthly payments of £1250. (Total repaid £23,000. APR 29.5%)

29.5% APR

£2 monthly payments of £1250. (Total repaid £23,000. APR 29.5%)

Greens rush to set agenda

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

SUDDENLY, EVERYBODY is in a hurry in Germany. Gerhard Schröder, winner of last Sunday's general elections, says he will be rushing to Berlin in April, five months before the government's scheduled move to the resurrected capital.

The Greens, too, are pressed for time. Even before the first meeting of their parliamentary group yesterday several Green MPs were offering urgent advice to a government that has yet to be formed. "There must be very quick decisions, to make it clear that things are changing in Germany," said Claudia Roth, one of the new MPs.

Ms Roth, a former member of the European parliament and a leading representative of the Greens' fundis wing, the so-called fundamentalists, is especially impatient with her future coalition partners' dithering over nuclear power. "We need to legislate for the closure of nuclear plants, and we need to make it quite clear that some of these plants will be closed down immediately," she said.

She was speaking to *The Independent* shortly before joining her colleagues in the first meeting of the parliamentary party since the elections. Green MPs had conferred on Monday night, but are split along fundis and realos - the so-called pragmatists - lines.

How the 47 of them will combine, and how they can co-operate with Mr Schröder's Social Democrats have become the central questions in German politics. The answers will define the speed of Mr Schröder's progress through the minefields of government.

The early signs do not seem encouraging. The Greens' leadership yesterday demanded four out of 16 cabinet posts, one



The Greens' spokespersons Juergen Trittin (left) and Gunda Roestel before the start of a party meeting in Bonn yesterday

Reuters

more than expected. They put employment and a new nationality law at the top of their list of priorities, followed by the eco-tax on petrol and nuclear power.

The latter looks set to provide the steepest test for the coalition-builders. On this issue at least, Mr Schröder is in no haste. The SPD has pledged to "phase out" nuclear power, maybe over 10 years.

It had been expected that, in the spirit of give and take,

some minor concession will be tossed to the Greens, perhaps by setting an earlier deadline. Parliament is elected for only four years, so in some ways Mr Schröder can promise over a 10-year span whatever he likes. But if the Greens stick to their guns, some real compromise might have to be struck.

In judging what the Greens will buy, Mr Schröder is hampered by the fact that not even Joschka Fischer, the Greens' de

facto leader, knows what can be sold to his members. Although they have come a long way from their organic vegetable patches, the Greens remain an unconventional party. So unconventional, that their membership sets the party line, and the leaders have to toe it.

The structure of the party is diffuse and painstakingly democratic. Genders have to be balanced in every post, as do the regions and the two wings. The

fundis are nowhere near as dogmatic as their predecessors 20 years ago, but they try hard to live up to the label. Half the team of 12 that sits down to negotiate with Mr Schröder on Friday are fundis.

Even then, the Social Democrats might not discover the Green bottom line. Ms Roth thinks, for instance, that even if Mr Fischer becomes Foreign Minister, her wing of the party will not be entirely reas-

sured. "Foreign policy will be difficult," she says. "We have different ideas concerning the Bundeswehr, and security structures in Europe." They want to abolish conscription and to water down Nato's role.

The fundis have other ideas, too. They will not scupper a coalition deal, because the Red-Green project is too important for all participants, but they are certain to apply the brakes to Mr Schröder's progress.

Hanson fury at sit-in by journalists

DAYS BEFORE Australia's general election, Pauline Hanson called in the police and declared a media blackout on the rest of her campaign when reporters refused to leave the campaign launch of her anti-immigration One Nation party.

The senior citizens' centre in Gatton, west of Brisbane, was the scene of a tense stand-off as journalists, weary of being deprived of interviews and information from the Hanson campaign, staged a sit-in.

Journalists assigned to cover Ms Hanson's campaign have heard promises of government spending to bring relief to hard-pressed rural communities, but no detailed costings. Trouble flared when a breakdown of One Nation's budget plans, due to be given out to news crews covering the launch, failed to materialise.

David Oldfield, a Senate candidate in New South Wales, promised to fax a document to newsrooms later that day, insisting the media leave to allow supporters to conduct their meeting.

But correspondents assigned to the Hanson trail have become a battle-hardened bunch, often keeping track of the campaign by guesswork as the self-styled Mother of Australia has plotted an unpredictable course across the country. A stalemate ensued until two members of the Queensland Police department advised the pack to wait in the blazing sunshine for a glimpse of their quarry, who was smuggled away through a side exit.

Yesterday's shambolic scenes were seen as a crude attempt by One Nation to subvert media ef-

BY JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

orts to scrutinise the political process and to use "mob rule" to intimidate journalists.

Many trace Ms Hanson's reluctance to give interviews to the emergence of One Nation policies, such as a proposal to run Australia's public finances on the basis of a flat rate "easy tax" on all transactions, including salary or wages as well as the purchase of goods and services.

Since details of her ideas began to emerge, her opinion poll standing has halved to its present 8 per cent, and party supporters, including her neighbouring parliamentary candidate Colene Hughes, now see the easy tax as an aberration.

After the meeting, Ms Hughes gave an insight into the perceptions that drive the One Nation bandwagon. On race, the party maintains it wants equality for all - meaning an end to affirmative action and government-funded programmes to improve the lot of Australia's indigenous population. "I have three step-nieces and step-nephews who are as black as the ace of spades," Ms Hughes said, by way of vouchsafing her anti-racist credentials.

The problem was hand-outs to Aborigines and those who "jumped on the bandwagon" claiming Aboriginal descent on the basis of one black ancestor, which bred resentment among whites. When One Nation's policy document finally arrived in Australia's newsrooms the chief proposed saving from existing budgets was to cut A\$1.5bn from support for indigenous affairs.

Albanian, 30, set to be Europe's youngest PM

PANDELI MAJKO, Albania's 30-year-old Socialist Party secretary-general, is about to become Europe's youngest head of government.

Mr Majko, who took part in the 1990 student protests that helped to bring down the Stalinist regime, has never held government office. But as head of the Socialist parliamentary group since elections in June 1997, and the party's secretary-general, he has worked closely with the outgoing Prime Minister, Fatos Nano, and is a key, if low-profile, figure in the country's politics.

Nano resigned on Monday night after failing to get the

backing of his five-party coalition for a cabinet reshuffle in the wake of an eruption of political violence two weeks ago.

The Socialists, whose coalition has a comfortable parliamentary majority, nominated Majko as their candidate to succeed Nano yesterday, and his appointment by President Rexhep Meidani appeared to be a formality.

Western diplomats believe the fact that Majko is untainted by past association with the Communist regime that ruled for four decades could enable him to improve Albania's highly polarised political climate. His appointment should re-

move a factor that has poisoned Albanian politics since the Nano coalition took office 14 months ago: the personal animosity between the outgoing Prime Minister and the former president Sali Berisha.

"He's a technocrat, open, well-disposed towards the outside world," said a Western diplomat. "His English is quite good, and he doesn't have the baggage that people in their fifties and sixties have."

Another diplomat said: "Majko represents a new generation, the generation of students who toppled the Communist regime. He represents hope for Albania."

IN RE-DESIGNING OUR BUSES, WE TALKED TO PEOPLE WITH INSIDE KNOWLEDGE



...to rent a new Rover 600? Now that's something to shout about!



Call us FREE and quote: KIND
0800 783 9988
to drive the best deal around.

Thrifty have locations throughout the UK. See us in Yellow Pages and Thomsons.

* Minimum 3 days hire. All rates inclusive of insurance and VAT. Subject to availability. Standard terms and conditions apply. Offer expires 31st December '98. Worldwide reservations 0900 168 738.

Thrifty feature quality Rover cars.

Thrifty Car Rental
The friendly face of car rental

What can a Scottish granny, a mother of two from Ipswich, and a group of Plymouth schoolkids teach a specialist team of top industrial and interior designers?

Well, quite a lot actually. You see, when we initially decided to re-design the British bus, we asked the opinions of the people most familiar with it - our passengers.

From leg-room and lighting, right down to the colour of the seats, passengers from all kinds of age-groups and backgrounds had their say.

Only then, after completing this exhaustive survey, did we set our designers to work on the best ideas.

Busy mums, disabled passengers and the elderly asked us if we

could provide easier access onto the bus.

We decided to go for a giant leap instead, and introduced a revolutionary 'kneeling' suspension, which lowers the bus down to pavement level - meaning no steps.

Many of our passengers requested extra space, so we made room for their shopping, luggage, pushchairs - and more importantly - legs.

So now our high-quality seating is as spacious as it is comfortable.

A new climate control system, double-glazing and floor level heating, ensure you'll keep your cool in the summer and receive a very warm welcome during winter. (Remember that, particularly if the car won't start on those really cold and frosty mornings.)

Safety, of course, remains our first priority. That's why we incorporated a

range of design features such as improved lighting and fire-resistant seats.

And, just to make sure that there are no slip-ups, specially designed slip-resistant flooring.

Add to that our new air suspension, bright, electronic display systems, and a stylish, modern interior.

The result? A state-of-the-art people carrier that every bus passenger can be proud of. In fact, we were so impressed that we ordered 900 of them straight away. Many of them are on the road already.

So, if you're impressed enough to come aboard one of our beautiful new buses, and like what you see, don't compliment us.

Just give the person next to you a pat on the back instead.



FirstGroup

ON THE ROAD FROM ONLY 50p

Right threatens West Bank accord

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU will spend today, Yom Kippur, the most contemplative day of the Jewish year, calculating how to call the bluff of his right-wing coalition partners who are threatening to bring him down if he agrees to hand over more West Bank territory to the Palestinians.

The Israeli Prime Minister's White House summit on Monday with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and President Bill

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem
and ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Clinton set the stage for a showdown that Mr Netanyahu has evaded for the past 19 months. At the Washington summit, Mr Arafat accepted a modified version to a United States peace proposal in which Israel will withdraw its troops from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

Aharon Domb, general secretary of the West Bank and Gaza settlers' council, warned the Israeli leader: "If there is a withdrawal, there will be no government."

The Israeli and Palestinian leaders will return to Washington in mid-October, accompanied by advisers, for a replay of the 1978 Camp David conference, which led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. On that occasion, President Jimmy

Carter kept Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat secluded in his Maryland retreat for 13 days until they were ready to sign.

The Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, is coming to the Middle East next week to sustain the momentum and settle as many points still in dispute as possible before the next summit. Mr Clinton said on Monday that there had been a "significant narrowing of the gaps".

The cautious assumption on

all sides of the Israeli debate is that there is a real chance of a breakthrough which would balance a 13 per cent Israeli withdrawal with more vigorous efforts by the Palestinians to curb Islamist violence.

Israel's Defence Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, predicted yesterday that it would "surely be possible to reach a package of deals in a number of areas" during Mrs Albright's visit.

But hardline coalition oppo-

nents of the Oslo agreement will do their best to prove him wrong. "We say no," said Hanan Porat, a leader of the National Religious Party, the third biggest in the coalition, with nine MPs. "If the government decides on this withdrawal, which means giving Arafat a Palestinian state on a silver platter, we won't be able to be partners to this government, and that means there will be elections."

With Mr Netanyahu's par-

liamentary base already eroded to a precarious 61 out of 120, the dissidents could force a dissolution if the Labour and other left-wing opposition parties joined them in voting against the Prime Minister.

Assuming, however, that he seals an agreement that satisfies Mr Arafat, the government is unlikely to fall in the short term, as opposition MPs would vote for the deal.

The question is whether the

left-wing parties will shore him up when he is challenged on other issues. They have been striving for months to bring Mr Netanyahu down.

Interviewed just before the Jewish new year, Mr Netanyahu reminded the right that early elections could bring to power a left-wing government ready for much greater concessions to the Palestinians. "I don't believe," he said, "that anyone will descend to such folly."

Credit card saga grips courtroom

FOR THE past two weeks, the Santa Monica courthouse has been gripped by the spectacle of Susan McDougal - the Arkansas businesswoman who recently emerged from jail for her role in the presidential Whitewater scandal - defending herself against accusations that she embezzled more than \$150,000 (£90,000) from the conductor Zubin Mehta and his wife Nancy while working as their assistant in the late Eighties.

Reams of financial documents and credit card bills have stripped the mystique from the Mehtas' personal spending habits, much as the Kenneth Starr report has revealed Bill Clinton's more intimate secrets.

Thus we learn that Nancy Mehta, herself a former actress, became so enamoured of a mattress she slept on in a hotel in Italy that she spent tens of thousands of dollars having it shipped from the Swiss manufacturer to Los Angeles.

Then there are the contested purchases - everything from a computer to a Barbie doll - that Ms McDougal may or may not have bought for her own purposes with her erstwhile friend and employer's money.

Did Mrs Mehta know she was paying to fix Ms McDougal's mother's teeth or to put her up in a Los Angeles hotel? No, was her unequivocal answer in court.

According to the prosecution, Ms McDougal spent as much as \$10,000 a month on a credit card that Mrs Mehta did not even know existed. She

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

then paid off the bills by forging Mrs Mehta's signature on her cheque book. "I thought, how could she pay \$10,000 a month on this card?" Mrs Mehta testified. "Then I realised - I'm paying for it."

Ms McDougal's lawyers forced Mrs Mehta to admit that several employees were authorised to use credit cards. The picture that the defence is building up is of a household with little, if any, control over its finances, with everything run on verbal agreements.

Effectively, the case boils down to one woman's word against another. In court, they have styled themselves as polar opposites; the dark-haired Ms McDougal sporting a cream suit, while Mrs Mehta, a blonde, turned up in prosecutorial black. Judge Leslie Light, also a former actor, has added his own flourishes, apologising for his constant interruptions.

Although the two affairs have nothing to do with each other, Mrs McDougal's reputation is inevitably coloured by her role in the Whitewater affair. She refused to testify against the Clintons over the long-running land deal and spent 18 months in jail for her pains. Now she faces 12 criminal charges, including fraud and failure to file tax returns, and could face another seven years behind bars if convicted for all of them.



An American television reporter wades through flooded downtown Mobile, Alabama street as Hurricane Georges battered the area

Reuters

Tornadoes follow in Georges' wake

HURRICANE GEORGES, which had lashed the Gulf coast of the United States in the early hours of Monday, was downgraded to a tropical storm yesterday as its swirling winds dropped below 50mph.

But the storm system lingered over southern Alabama, bringing as much as 30 inches of rain to counties south of the state capital, Montgomery, and the Florida Panhandle, and a rash of tornadoes.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Montgomery

Residents were advised to remain indoors; schools, and businesses remained closed, and the thousands of people who had moved inland under the hurricane evacuation order were instructed to wait before returning home.

Extensive flooding cut even main roads and many secondary roads were submerged.

Tornado warnings flashed on to television screens by the hour.

In the event of people being caught outside with a tornado bearing down, the advice was "as a last resort, lie on the floor, or flat in a ditch, and cover your head. If you're in a car, don't think you can outrun it; take cover immediately."

In the coastal cities of Mobile and Biloxi, flooding caused by the storm-surge had subsided, leaving behind trails of wreck-

age, including industrial containers toppled on their sides and trees washed up by the seas. Returning townspeople were warned of the risk of snakes and insects.

Flood warnings remained in force, with the new risk coming from rivers swollen by 48 hours of rain, equivalent to six months' normal rainfall for the area.

Forecasters expressed the fear that Georges could regenerate itself as a hurricane

if it reached the Atlantic ocean without losing much more strength. Gusts of up to 70mph were being felt in the Montgomery area.

Across the Gulf coast region more than 680,000 people were without power yesterday, with little hope of supplies being restored before today at the earliest.

Airports remained closed, and bus and train services, suspended since Sunday, were

expected to resume gradually in coming days.

The areas worst affected by Hurricane Georges, from Puerto Rico in the east to the Florida Keys to the Gulf coast, have now all been declared federal disaster areas by President Bill Clinton, allowing them to claim central assistance.

In contrast to the Caribbean, where the hurricane caused more than 300 deaths, only four died in the US.

Bees bring taste of honey to inner city

HIS BEE-KEEPER'S smoker puffing blue clouds in one hand and a flat metal hook in the other, David Graves snags a frame deep inside the hive and, ever so gently, lifts it out. What he finds delights him - a perfect comb fairly laden with dark, oozing honey. "This," he declares, "would win a prize in a show."

Although October has nearly arrived, the bees are still hard at work scouring their surroundings for blossoms and the nectar deep inside them. But then that is one of the reasons why the hive is here, rather than in some woody glade deep in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, where Mr Graves actually lives. There, it is cold already. Here, summer has still to make its exit.

Believe it or not, we are on the roof of a hut in a community garden in the less-than-pastoral Lower East Side of Manhattan. All around are tenement buildings, some abandoned and waiting for the wrecking ball, others vibrating with the sounds of Latin music and children out of school. In the garden itself, the shrubs occasionally stir,

not with the gentle winds but with the scurrying beneath of outsize rats.

This has been the second summer of Mr Graves' unusual experiment. A regular at the various farmers' markets that are thriving around Manhattan, he is the only vendor to offer local honey that is, well, really local. His customers, though sceptical at first, have come to love it; so much that they happily pay \$5 (£3) for half a pound of the stuff, twice what he asks for honey produced back in the Berkshires.

It all started because of honey-hungry black bears. When their assaults on his hives in Massachusetts got too much, he moved a few to the roof of his father's house. "Then I thought, 'Gee, there are lots of roofs in New York City. Why not put some of the hives up there?'"

The difficulty was per-

AMERICAN TIMES
NEW YORK



David Graves among his New York City bees

attack. But I couldn't put them on street level. Someone would get too close to the hive and get stung."

One morning, Mr Graves

put a mini-hive, jammed with bees, on his stall with a sign that read: "We need a home. We're very gentle and would love to share our New York

honey. Do you have a rooftop?" Gradually, takers began to come forward. Such as the old lady who offered space on the balcony of her 32nd-floor home in a posh Upper West Side apartment building. And the couple who thought a hive on the roof of their brownstone would be educational for their daughters. Now he has seven hives in Manhattan and Brooklyn and one on the roof of a school in the Bronx. The hotel he sometimes sleeps in next to Union Square took one too. "Sometimes I'll open a jar when I'm selling on the square and the bees will come and visit. I say to people, 'Look, that's one of my bees'." Blind taste tests conducted here and in Massachusetts have borne out customers' claims that the city honey is better than the country variety.

Mr Graves sees several reasons for the superior quality. Above all, he says, it is the climate, the early spring and the lingering summer. And what the bees have in the city is what humans flee it for - "they are not stressed". For one, they have easy access to water here. Moreover, Mr

Graves says, they benefit from the sheer variety of flowers. "There are so many parks in New York, plus people seem to be planting everywhere." His bees will travel up to five miles from the hive for nectar, giving them a search area full of treasure, whether in potted gardens on hidden patios or across the East River in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

He has had the occasional problem. When the buzz of the bees on the West Side balcony came to the notice of the building's owners, the old lady was forced to return the hive. Some customers still wonder about pollutants in the honey. But they worry needlessly, he says.

"The bees find nectar deep down in the blossoms and they are not on them long enough to pick up any pollutants," he insists. Moreover, no farming in the city means no pesticides. "I'd be much more worried putting a hive next to an orchard in the Berkshires, where they'd be spraying, than on a roof here."

As for the rats, he runs like hell when he sees them. But why should the bees care?

DAVID USBORNE

IN BRIEF

Czech priest's jail term increased

AN APPEALS court in east Bohemia in the Czech Republic has found a Catholic priest guilty of sexual abuse of three boys and sentenced him to four years in prison. Pavel Smekal, 39, was sentenced already in June to three years in jail. He appealed the verdict, but the court in Hradec Kralove, 62 miles east of Prague, raised the previous sentence by one year yesterday.

Islamist faces incitement charges

TURKEY'S TOP prosecutor yesterday called for fresh charges to be brought against the popular Islamist mayor of Istanbul, already sentenced to 10 months in jail for sedition. The prosecutor, Vural Savas, recommended that Mayor Recep Tayyip Erdogan be tried for inciting his supporters to violence after the appeals court upheld the 10-month sentence against him last week. Turkey's secularist prosecutors have launched a legal assault on leading Islamists since the government they led collapsed last year.

Hutu attack kills 14 in Burundi

HUTU REBELS killed 14 people, including eight who were burned to death, in two separate weekend attacks just south of Burundi's capital Bujumbura, officials said yesterday. The administrator of the Kanyosha commune, nine miles south of the Bujumbura, said rebels burned alive eight people in an attack on Saturday night, and killed another six people in his commune or province on Sunday. Two of the victims were local government officials, officials said.

Attempt to heal Orthodox schism

THE HEADS of the world's Orthodox churches are to meet in Sofia this week to try to mend a schism among the Bulgarian clergy. Bulgaria's Orthodox Church is split into supporters of Patriarch Maxim, and a rebel group who say Maxim was appointed in 1971 by the communist dictator Todor Zhivkov. They enthroned a rival patriarch, Pimen, in July 1996.

New York from £192	Hong Kong from £481	LA from £292
-----------------------	------------------------	-----------------

Virgin MegaSavers For a seat back TV in Economy call 01293 747 245 or your travel agent.

virgin atlantic



Iranian troops arrive near Zabol, a border province next to Afghanistan. The Iranian army has massed 200,000 troops near the Afghan border for exercises expected to start this week

Russia angered by Nato chief's tour

JAVIER SOLANA, Secretary-General of Nato and a critic of the West's handling of Russia, was yesterday on a mission that risked deepening anti-Western sentiment within the unstable and bankrupt former super-power.

Mr Solana arrived in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, for a three-nation tour of ex-Soviet republics in the Caucasus, a strategically vital region over which Moscow has long been striving to maintain its geopolitical influence.

None of his critics - beyond the more extreme elements in Moscow - disputes the alliance's right to visit independent nations, but questions have been raised about the timing, which comes amid deep uncertainty over the future course of Russia. "It is very unfortunate," one Western diplomat said.

Billed by Nato as an effort to

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

build further co-operation with the Caucasus republics, the Solana trip coincides with a debate in the West over who is responsible for what some analysts characterise as the "loss" of Russia.

Mr Solana has chipped in, lambasting Western powers for lacking leadership or strategy. Yet Nato, whose expansion into Eastern Europe has long been a bone of contention with Russia, has further ensured that it gets a share of the blame by parading its colours on Russia's southern flank in a particularly fraught and uncertain period.

More than two weeks after his appointment, Boris Yeltsin's premier Yevgeny Primakov has yet to complete his government. Doubts abound over how long this government - an awkward

hotch-potch combining weathered apparatchiks with a scattering of more progressive figures - will last. And no one can be certain whether Moscow will espouse the mantra of market capitalism, or whether anti-Western forces will prevail.

Mr Solana, who will also visit Armenia and Azerbaijan, is not the only example of questionable efforts by the West to assert superiority at a time of Russian weakness: in the past month, the flagship of the US Sixth Fleet, the USS *LaSalle*, has been steaming around the Black Sea.

Publicly, Moscow has said little about Mr Solana's long-planned visit, though the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday repeated its general hostility to Nato expansion. But government opinion is not the only issue. Russia is due to hold parliamentary and presidential elections within the

next 22 months. Actions which strengthen anti-Western sentiment inevitably breathe wind into the sails of resurgent, and potentially extreme, forces on the left and right.

Yesterday, those elements were not shy in airing their views. Alexander Podbryozhkin, a policymaker for the Communists, announced that he had complained about the Nato visit to the Georgian government and to the United States. Much of the State Duma, or lower house of parliament, will share his views: it has a 300-member anti-Nato group.

Beneath the issue lies a larger sense of insecurity that has taken hold in Moscow as Russia watches the widening of its geopolitical slings both in its so-called "near abroad" - former Soviet territory - and within its borders, where regions are straining at the federal leash.

Hand graft a 'false miracle' says surgeon

A LEADING surgeon said yesterday that the grafting of a hand on to a New Zealand man last week was a "folly" and a "false miracle", performed for media glory.

The 13-hour operation, a world first, was carried out by an international team of surgeons in France.

There has also been astonishment in New Zealand and Australia at the identity and history of the patient (said to be recovering well in the hospital in Lyons where the operation took place). It has emerged that Clint Hallam, 48, lost his right hand in a wood-cutting accident while in prison in New Zealand for fraud. He faces outstanding charges of fraud and failure to pay debts in New Zealand and his adopted home of Australia.

A man to whom Mr Hallam allegedly owes money in Napier, north-eastern New Zealand, told the New Zealand Press Association that he was a "plausible liar. I only hope that he puts his new hand in his pocket to pay the people he owes."

At the same time, the leader of the medical team has been accused of milking the exploit for political gain. Professor Jean-Michel Dubernard, of the Edouard Bellet Hospital in Lyons, who is also MP and assistant mayor for the city, dismissed the accusations. Similar operations are planned, he said.

After several days of murmuring in international medical circles, doubts about the operation exploded yesterday in an ill-tempered article in the French newspaper *Le Figaro*. Dr Guy Foucher, president of the International Federation of Hand Surgeons, described the transplanting of a donor hand by a team of eight surgeons from France, Australia, Britain and Italy as "not an exploit but a folly". Even if the op-

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

eration was successful - and that was open to question - the transplanted hand and wrist would be no more useful than an artificial hand, he said.

There was nothing medically extraordinary about joining the new hand to the body; three-quarters of the surgical interns in France were capable of mastering the micro-surgical techniques involved. It remained to be seen whether the new drugs used would prevent Mr Hallam's body from rejecting the hand. Even if they did so, the dulling of Mr Hallam's immunity would place him at risk of disease for the rest of his life; he would have been converted from a healthy man into a "sick" one.

The only reason such an operation had not been performed years ago was that it was ethically and medically unsound, Dr Foucher said. After nine years without a hand, it was unlikely the nerves and muscles in Mr Hallam's arm would be able to operate the new hand normally.

"Many other people will now build their hopes on this false miracle. It is essential that the failure of the hand to function properly - something which will only be apparent in one year or two - should receive just as much media coverage as the operation itself."

Professor Dubernard rejected the charges. New immunity suppressing drugs made such operations feasible and it was essential that medicine continued to extend its boundaries, he said. He had assembled a team of respected surgeons to avoid allegations that he was taking part in a "media race" to be the first to transplant a donor limb.

50 extra new stores make

Time No.1

The award winning PC manufacturer is now also...

The UK's Biggest PC Retailer

with over 110 Time stores nationwide

The success of the Time concept of cutting out the middleman, to offer PC buyers the best value and service, has enabled us to open over 50 more stores. With more than 110 stores nationwide, Time are now firmly established as the UK's largest specialist PC retailer and able to guarantee the very best PC deals. Order direct or call 0800 316 2 317 for your nearest Time store.



TIME
we're on your side™

SPECIAL LAUNCH OFFER
Pay Nothing Until Oct 99
12 Months Interest Free Credit

300M-IIsp
FamilyPC Exec™

- IBM 300M-II processor • 64MB SDRAM
- 4.3Gb Hard disk • TV-Out for games
- 56K Voice modem • 32x CD-ROM drive
- Joystick, Microphone and Speakers
- 14" SVGA Colour screen
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Software Inc. Lotus SmartSuite Millennium
- FREE Epson 300 colour printer
- FREE A4 colour flatbed scanner
- Exec Educational/Lesure software bundle

Product code 300 M-II SP Exec 14" 982

FREE Printer & FREE Scanner



Massive Software Bundle

£799 Plus VAT **£938.83** inc VAT

NO Deposit **ORDER NOW - NO NEED TO SAVE**

NO Payments **PAY NOTHING UNTIL OCT 99**

NO Interest

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT, THAT'S 0% APR IF FULLY REPAYED BY OCTOBER 1999

Easy payment plan over longer periods also available. See typical finance example below.



Our promise to you

It's Time

for salespeople who take the time to understand your needs

It's Time

for clear explanations in plain English - not jargon

It's Time

for computers that grow with you and can be updated

It's Time

to cut out the middleman and cut the cost of computers

It's Time

to visit us

Now over 110 stores nationwide

For store details Freephone 0800 316 2 317

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Abingdon PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |
| Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH | Barnstaple PH |

PH = in Powerhouse OW = in Office World

You can also find Time in-store at the following Office World locations:

• Aylesbury • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

• Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple • Barnstaple

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

House prices fall for second month

HOUSE PRICES fell for the second month running during September according to Nationwide Building Society. Nationwide's seasonally adjusted house price index showed that UK prices fell by 0.2 per cent in September compared to August, although prices are still 7.5 per cent higher than a year ago.

The deceleration in prices primarily reflects a slowing of prices in London and the south-east. Nationwide said. The building society expects housing market activity to remain "reasonably resilient" although "it will not be immune to the inevitable slowing of the wider economy already underway".

Wimpey attacks planning logjam



GEORGE WIMPEY, Britain's biggest housebuilder, yesterday accused the government of pushing up land prices by failing to address the country's planning logjam.

Joe Dwyer (left), the group's chairman, said that delays in getting housing development approved by local authorities squeezed land housing supply, raising new home prices. He said that the government's failure to speed up the process was hurting consumers. "In a perverse way the government's inaction is having the effect of increasing house prices and especially new home prices," said Mr Dwyer.

Coca-Cola slashes Ukraine prices

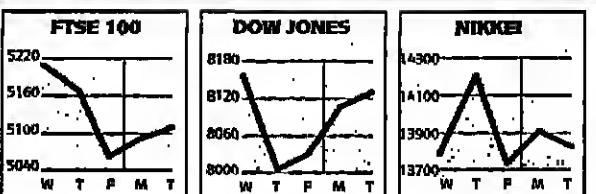
COCA-COLA Beverages, the bottling group that floated on the London Stock Exchange in July, is set to receive a cash boost from its parent company in order to cut the price of Coca-Cola in the Ukraine and Belarus.

Devaluations in those countries have forced CCB to raise prices by more than 40 per cent in the past two months. Coca-Cola would pay for the price cuts by slashing its advertising in the region.

Shares in CCB yesterday fell 21.5p to 134p as the company reported operating profits down 9 per cent at £23.3m in the half year to June. After restructuring and flotation costs of £15.4m, CCB reported a pre-tax loss of £2m.

Investment, page 20

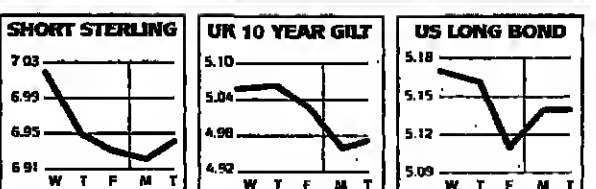
STOCK MARKETS



Three Jones index and graphs at 3pm

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5108.70	15.20	0.30	6183.70	4382.80	3.83
FTSE 250	4562.00	9.00	0.20	5970.90	4428.30	5.02
FTSE 350	2439.10	6.80	0.28	2969.10	2141.80	4.03
FTSE All Share	2363.01	5.86	0.25	2886.52	2105.59	4.04
FTSE SmallCap	1995.90	-6.70	-0.34	2733.80	2002.00	4.19
FTSE FTSE100	1129.50	-5.60	-0.50	1317.10	1131.10	4.55
FTSE AIM	837.70	-7.80	-0.93	1148.90	845.50	1.38
FTSE EBL00	845.70	-5.49	-0.65	1148.90	845.50	1.38
Dow Jones	8120.68	11.84	0.15	9367.84	6971.32	1.84
Nikkei	13821.43	-87.94	-0.63	18053.55	13211.13	1.12
Hong Kong	7837.61	-108.43	-1.37	12424.65	6544.79	5.19
Dax	4578.27	-75.67	-1.63	6217.83	3487.24	3.46

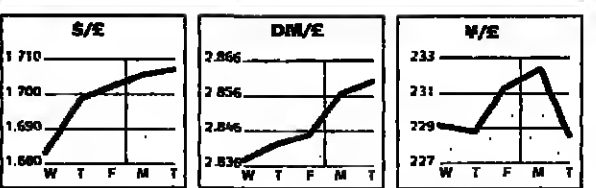
INTEREST RATES



at 3pm

Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	7.37	0.08	6.94	-0.63	4.98	-1.47	4.56
US	5.31	-0.46	5.06	-0.94	4.60	...	5.14
Japan	0.45	-0.13	0.47	-0.16	0.84	-1.27	1.95
Germany	3.56	0.15	3.57	-0.19	3.95	-1.60	4.94

CURRENCIES



at 3pm

Index	at 3pm	Change	Yr. Ago
Dollar	1.7070	+0.20c	1.6165
D-Mark	2.8593	-0.01p	2.8412
Yen	228.62	-0.72	194.63
E index	103.80	+0.30	100.20

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Chg	Yr. Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	14.33	-0.12
Gold (\$)	294.55	-1.30
Silver (\$)	5.36	0.22
GDP	115.40	3.00
RPI	163.70	3.30
Base Rates	7.50	7.00

at 3pm

Source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.7650	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.90
Austria (schillings)	19.52	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1308
Belgium (francs)	57.37	New Zealand (\$)	3.2574
Canada (\$)	2.5062	Norway (krone)	12.35
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8165	Portugal (escudos)	282.58
Denmark (krone)	10.62	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.2172
Finland (markka)	8.5084	Singapore (\$)	2.7329
France (francs)	9.3139	Spain (pesetas)	235.35
Germany (marks)	2.7851	South Africa (rand)	9.4235
Greece (drachma)	478.72	Sweden (krone)	13.07
Hong Kong (\$)	12.83	Switzerland (francs)	2.3116
Ireland (pounds)	1.1112	Thailand (bahts)	60.27
India (rupees)	66.68	Turkey (liras)	453828
Israel (shekels)	6.0646	USA (\$)	1.6683
Italy (lira)	2760		
Japan (yen)	225.83		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1908		
Malta (lira)	0.6177		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

US cuts interest rates to calm market fears

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

AMERICA CUT its interest rates yesterday - a sign of the growing concern about the damage wrought to the US and world economy by the crisis in Asia. The 0.25 per cent cut also responds to fears in America's central bank about financial market stability.

The Federal Reserve announced the cut in its Federal Funds rate from 5.5 per cent to 5.25 per cent at its monthly meeting yesterday in Washington.

Many analysts had hoped for 0.5 per cent, and the size of the move disappointed some in the financial markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell on the news.

The cut, however, had been well signalled in advance by Fed



Alan Greenspan: Concern for world economies

Chairman Alan Greenspan, and some banks had already responded by reducing their prime rate. Its significance goes well beyond America, however, it shows that concern about the world economy has finally hit home in Washington, and it is likely to signal a round of cuts in central banks around the world.

The Fed's move comes on the eve of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Washington, which will see renewed worries about the world economy.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook is expected to show reduced forecasts for economic growth following the turmoil first in Asia and then in Russia, which risks spreading to other developing countries.

There have been widespread calls for reductions in interest rates, but until now the Fed - the world's pre-eminent central bank - had been unwilling to accede, fearing the impact on domestic inflation.

It has become increasingly clear, however, that the crisis

had also cut economic growth in the developed world, spurring Mr Greenspan into action.

Just two months ago, the Fed chairman was more concerned about the risks of accelerating wages and prices than reduced growth, but the tumultuous summer - with a stock market correction, political and financial crisis in Russia and the problems of the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management - has apparently convinced him that conditions have changed dramatically.

There will be pressure on other central banks from the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations to follow suit. Paul Martin, Canada's finance minister, yesterday unveiled a plan for tackling economic problems which put lower interest rates at the top of the list.

The international community should ensure "appropriate monetary policy through G7 central banks paying close attention and giving appropriate weight to the risk of a further slowdown in the global economy," he said.

Gordon Brown will attend a meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers in Ottawa today which is expected to draw up a plan for tackling the problems of the global economy.

Yesterday's cut is the first shift of any kind in US interest rates since early 1997, when the Fed increased rates by a quarter point. The US economy has been on a steady track of low inflation and healthy growth, with little to rock its equilibrium until this year.

But since 1997, the moderating effect of low inflation has shifted real interest rates up.

Goldman staff told to grab market share

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

JON CORZINE, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, which has abandoned plans for a \$30 billion flotation, told the bank's staff yesterday to use the current turmoil in financial markets to grab market share from weaker rivals.

In a transatlantic rallying call, Mr Corzine, who joined co-chairman Henry "Hank" Paulson on the telephone, said: "Our watchword is steady as you go, full steam ahead." He went on: "We have important work to do."

Mr Corzine who was appointed in 1994 with a specific mandate to see the business through to a stock market listing, said: "It is our view based on market conditions that there is a clear execution risk for Goldman Sachs IPO."

He added that the recommendation not to go ahead adopted by the strategy committee the night before "is the advice that we would give a client in similar circumstances."

"Market dislocations have often provided opportunities for the firm in the past," he said. "Great institutions can distinguish themselves in difficult times."

He pointed to the role Goldman played in the Long-Term Capital rescue: "We were a leader in seeking to dampen the systemic risk," and offered the hand of co-operation to other governments around the world battling to prevent financial collapse.

He concluded with a call to arms: "Let us go forward," followed by the sound of telephone receivers being clumsily put down.

Hank Paulson said the way financial markets had behaved since the Russian default in August was tantamount to an "earthquake without historical precedent". The firm's own estimates were that \$100bn had been lost by Western banks in the Russian default and its aftermath "the subterranean shifts," he added, "are still playing themselves out."

Goldman yesterday named 160 new managing directors, of which 36 were in Europe, most working out of Goldman Sachs' European headquarters in London's Fleet Street. The appointment, which involves a profit-related bonus as well as a substantial salary increase, is usually seen as the "fast track" to partnership.

New partners will be appointed within the next few weeks. Outlook, page 17

BMW warns on Rover jobs

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BMW WARNED yesterday of further cutbacks at its Rover car plants as the manufacturing industry was hit by a fresh wave of job losses.

Speaking on the opening day of the Paris Motor Show, BMW's chairman, Bernd Pischetsrieder, said further action would have to be taken if the current downturn continued and the pound remained strong.

BMW has already cut 1,500 jobs at Rover, put the Longbridge plant on a four-day week, and announced plans to switch £1bn worth of component purchasing abroad.

The US electronics company, Viasystems, meanwhile, blamed the global downturn for the closure of two factories in the Scottish borders with 950 job losses.

Hepworth, the maker of Gloom boilers, added to the gloom by warning of a further 200 redundancies on top of the 500 jobs it has shed in the UK and continental Europe in the past year.

Rover is in talks with its unions about the additional cutbacks amid fears that it may suffer losses of up to £500m this year. "What they will be in being discussed with workers and unions, but I expect it will go beyond what we already announced," said Mr Pischetsrieder.

The company indicated that it would rein back production further to try to limit job losses.



BMW's Z3 Roadster on display in Paris yesterday as the group announced more cuts at Rover

Reuter

A spokesman also rebuffed suggestions that BMW's investment programme, currently running at £600m a year, was under threat because of increasing losses.

Rover managed to cut its losses to £92m last year from £119m in 1996. But this year the

strong pound has inflicted a double blow, making Rover's exports more unprofitable and exposing it to increased competition from cheap imports.

The Viasystems closures were condemned as a betrayal of the workforce by two Liberal Democrat MPs for the Bor-

ders region, Archie Kirkwood and Michael Moore. The MPs also called for a public inquiry into the public funding which the US company had received.

The Hepworth job losses will reduce the workforce by up to 10 per cent to around 6,300 people. More than 60 per cent

of Hepworth's staff work in the UK, with the rest in continental Europe.

The redundancies are part of the group's efforts to hunk tough market conditions in its core business by cutting costs and improving efficiencies. Outlook, page 17

London's forex trade is \$637bn a day

LONDON HAS maintained its lead as the world's premier market for foreign exchange and over-the-counter derivatives, according to new figures compiled by the Bank of England.

The figures show that the average daily turnover of the UK foreign exchange market was \$637bn per day in April, an increase of 37 per cent on the same month three years ago.

The daily turnover in over-the-counter derivatives was \$171bn in the UK in April, almost twice the level of the United States, which ranked second in the survey. The UK figure showed a 131 per cent rise over the past three years as London stretched its lead on rival financial centres.

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

The Bank of England stressed that the derivatives figures were for "off exchange" transactions between institutions and that trading on exchanges such as LIFFE could be as much as "10 times those figures."

However, London's leading position makes the Square Mile more exposed than any other financial centre given the recent turmoil in financial markets caused by hedge funds such as Long Term Capital Management.

The Bank of England refused to comment on the actions of hedge funds and how they might be regulated in the future.

John Footman, the Bank's deputy director of financial stability, said: "I don't want to offer any prescription on that. That will be one of the issues that will be raised in Washington next week [at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings]."

However, its figures showed that in certain markets, such as interest rate business, the share of the market accounted for by "other financial institutions" such as hedge funds, pension funds and building societies, grew from 9 per cent in 1995 to 24 per cent this year. It is thought that hedge funds would have accounted for most of the rise.

The figures are part of a survey carried out once every three years by the Bank of England on behalf of the Bank for International Settlements.

In foreign exchange trading the 37 per cent increase in the average daily turnover to \$637bn represented a slower rate of growth than the 43 per cent reported in the US and was down sharply from the 60 per cent rise reported for London three years ago. Even so, the figure was 82 per cent higher than New York, London's nearest rival.

The Bank of England said that the slower rate of growth in foreign exchange trading compared with derivatives was because foreign exchange was a more established, mature market.

Outlook, page 17

CAPITAL CENTRES

Foreign Exchange turnover*

Country	Average Daily Turnover April, (\$bn)	Percentage Growth (over 1995)
UK	637	37
US	350	43
Japan	149	32
Singapore	139	32
Germany	94	24
Switzerland	82	5
Hong Kong	72	18
France	72	24

Over the counter derivatives turnover*

Country	Average Daily Turnover April, (\$bn)	Percentage Growth (over 1995)
UK	171	131
US	91	75
Japan	46	107
Germany	42	28
Switzerland	34	162
Singapore	16	256
Hong Kong	11	288
France	4	11

Source: Bank of England

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE MARKET was cautious ahead of the US interest rates decision, with the Footsie making a 15.2-point gain to 5,108.7 after dipping more than 50 in early trading. For small cap shares it was another disastrous session, with the FTSE small cap index falling 6.7 to 1,995.9 - the first time it has dipped below 2,000 since January 1996.

Diageo, the spirits giant, was the best performing Footsie constituent. Interest rate considerations lifted the shares 48.5p to 547p.

Derek Pain, page 20

NEW YORK

WALL STREET went modestly higher by mid-session, with the broader market waiting for the Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 17 points at 8,128 as investors hoped for a 0.5 per cent cut.

Shares were mixed as Gillette, Goodyear Tire and International Flavors & Fragrances all warned that weak international sales would result in disappointing third-quarter profits. Illustrating the damage caused by slumping economies abroad.

TOKYO

LATE GAINS by exporters offset declines by trading companies and helped the benchmark index erase most of an early deficit. Mitsui and Mitsubishi fell on concerns that profits will be eroded by crumbling investments, while Sony led a rally by electronics companies and car makers as public pensions bid up shares in anticipation of the month-end book closing.

The Nikkei 225 index fell 87.94 points, or 0.63 per cent, to 13,821.4. In morning trading the benchmark fell below a 12-year closing low of 13,587.30 set on 21 September.

SEOUL

BANKS LED a 2.2 per cent rise in the benchmark Kospi index to 312.33, as banking employees called off their strike after management agreed to scale back layoffs, sparing the banking system from chaos during South Korea's busiest holiday season.

Exports kept falling in August, and factories were running at their lowest capacity rates on record. Hyundai, Daewoo, Samsung Motors, General Motors and Ford were invited to tender for Kia Motors in a third attempt to auction off the ailing car maker.

JOHANNESBURG

GOLD STOCKS powered ahead as the rest of the market sagged, hit by profit-taking. The All Share ended 1.87 per cent down at 5,194 but the influential bullion index rose 6.45 per cent to 1,116.6 as the gold price held around the psychologically crucial \$296 an ounce level.

Hedge funds have sold gold short for the last two years, so fears about widespread position covering after the LTCM bail-out added to bullishness from the prospect of dollar weakness and safe-haven gold buying.

Good

China cr

own on

urrency

IN BRIE

Logica with £15m \$4w

British Land buys Off

Infrastr blames digi

Levi Strauss closes

BMW cuts 50 Lond

Good news for London could be bad

GOOD NEWS. London has consolidated and improved on its position as the world's leading international financial centre. Bad news. As a result, it is going to be hit that much worse by the present contraction in global capital markets.

New figures from the Bank of England show that London is still streets ahead of its rivals in terms of turnover for foreign exchange and over-the-counter derivatives.

In foreign exchange, for example, the UK market's average daily turnover of \$637bn was more than the next three competitors combined. In over-the-counter derivatives, London's daily average trade of \$171bn is almost twice as much as the US figure. And London's growth rate in these complicated instruments is also mind-boggling - a whopping 131 per cent over the last three years. This figure is only bettered by the Germans with 162 per cent and the Swiss with a huge 256 per cent increase, but they are coming at it from a much lower base.

All this is very heartening, as well as being an apparent vindication of



OUTLOOK

the belief that London is now so far ahead of its rivals in Frankfurt, Paris and Milan that it cannot be caught. The trouble is that these figures were compiled in April. Since then the world has moved on a touch. The obvious problem with London's great dash for growth in derivatives is that it leaves the Square Mile more exposed to a downturn than any other financial centre.

Britain is already in recession as far as manufacturing is concerned and you don't have to spend any more than five minutes with the in-

vestment banking community to realise the City is heading that way at a pace of knots too. The Bank of England is right to feel pleased with these figures, but they aren't going to look so hot this year.

Goldman Sachs

JON CORZINE, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, has plainly lost the battle, but has also lost the war? Mr Corzine has spent several years attempting to persuade his fellow partners that the future for the world's best known investment bank lay as a publicly-quoted company rather than an old-style partnership. Eventually a convincing majority agreed with him, but they did so too late to make it happen. By the time they'd made up their minds to sell, nobody wanted to buy.

As always in such circumstances, it proved difficult for senior partners to admit this. As it happens, Goldman Sachs is less up its own what-sit than many of its peers in investment banking: its people are

as savvy and switched on a breed as it is possible to find. But even so, they are not used to failure and the realisation that they had their timing so badly wrong has been a humbling one.

None of this means that Goldman Sachs is flawed in its strategy of flotation, or that the plan is now buried for good. Indeed, if Goldman Sachs is going to prosper, grow and consolidate its position in the next upturn, it has to float. As for the present business cycle, Goldman Sachs has obviously missed its chance, but bad though things now look, this is not the end of capitalism, or global capital markets.

The immediate outlook is rocky, but ultimately the experience will prove a cathartic one. Capital markets will emerge strengthened and rejuvenated, and when they do, the opportunities for investment banks - in terms of reorganising global industries, savings, international trade and restructuring emerging economies - will be as rich and varied as ever. The most forward-looking businesses are already looking

beyond the present malaise to a time when they can meet that challenge. If Goldman Sachs is going to be up there with Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and Travellers, as it presently is, it's going to have to float.

Access to capital is part of the reason, although it is obviously the case that you don't necessarily need your shares to be quoted to obtain capital on favourable terms. Transparency is another. Part of the process of rebirth for capital markets is going to be much greater disclosure. In such a world, an old fashioned and secretive partnership is going to look out of place and out of date.

But most important of all, human nature requires value recognition and the only mechanism we have for assessing it is the market. Most active and sleeping partners at Goldman Sachs want a value put on their stakes, and non partners want a share of the spoils to bind them in. Again, flotation is the only way to achieve this.

The IPO is on the back burner for the time being, but it is a racing certainty that in three to four years'

time, Goldman Sachs will indeed be a publicly quoted company.

Rover

TRUST ROVER to lower the tone on the opening day of the Paris Motor Show. Renault and Michelin may be celebrating their centenaries and Porsche its half century but the mood over at BMW, Rover's German owners, was anything but festive.

Bernard Pischetsrieder, the urbane chairman of BMW, has every reason to be glum. He bought Rover in a haze of sentimental attachment to its illustrious predecessors, the Wolseley and Riley, but quickly discovered that the current model is not in quite the same league.

The R75 - the successor to the uninspired 600-800 series - is Rover's next great hope and goes on show in Birmingham in three weeks' time. But as luxury executive saloons go, it will be a pale imitation of the real thing, the latest Mercedes S-class, which is also getting its first outing in Paris.

Four-and-a-half years on, all BMW has to show for its £4bn of investment in Rover is mounting losses of perhaps as much as £500m this year and a faint hope that its purchase will turn the corner some time in the millennium with the aid of a revamped version of a 40-year old car, the Mini.

Meanwhile, the Rover workforce is being fed on a diet of bad news, with more cutbacks due in the next fortnight on top of the 1,500 job losses and four-day week announced in July. Amid the wreckage, the one consolation for Mr Pischetsrieder is the performance of Land Rover. But at some point his shareholders have to ask whether BMW might not have spent their money better building its own entry into the 4x4 market from scratch.

It is hardly time yet to press the panic button, and BMW remains a highly profitable brand. But with the millstone of Rover around his neck, Volkswagen's Ferdinand Piech knocking at his door, and Daimler married to Chrysler, Mr Pischetsrieder must be starting to feel the heat.

China cracks down on currency flow

CHINA is bolstering its currency by ordering mainland companies to remit all foreign currency earnings held abroad to China by tomorrow.

The move is part of a crackdown on foreign exchange abuses that are putting pressure on the Chinese yuan.

Wu Xiaoling, director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said yesterday that foreign currency fraud and "disorderly capital flow" had increased this year, prompted by "psychological expectations" of a devaluation of the yuan.

The government in Peking is standing firm that there will be no devaluation this year, but Chinese companies and individuals have been increasingly keen to hoard dollars. It has always been illegal for Chinese firms to hold foreign earnings abroad, but previously this has not been a big issue.

Ms Wu also revealed yesterday that private foreign exchange holdings inside China had reached about \$80bn, compared with the government's forex reserves of \$140bn.

The rest of the world will support any moves to shore up the Chinese yuan, whose stability is seen as a lynch-pin in preventing further economic turmoil in Asia. Ms Wu reaffirmed yesterday that the economic fundamentals did not support the need for a devaluation, and that "devaluing the yuan will bring more disadvantages than advantages". However, she added:

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

"No one can promise whether a currency will devalue or not." China's economy and rate of export growth have both suffered because of the crisis in Asia, but the trade surplus for the first eight months of 1998 was still US\$31.4bn.

Yesterday's crackdown was aimed at businesses, not individuals, and may inconvenience foreign-invested enterprises in China as trade documents for customs declaration forms above \$100,000 are scrutinised for irregularities. The Chinese yuan is convertible on the current but not the capital account, so trade deals are a means to circumvent currency controls.

Ms Wu said that "billions" of US dollars of false customs declaration forms had already been discovered, as people used false import documents to obtain foreign currency. "It is not beneficial to a country's economy if it is under attack by illegal capital flow," she said.

Ms Wu's measures are aimed at defensive moves by Chinese companies, who fear a devaluation. These include paying for imports in advance, delaying taking payment for export earnings, and paying off forex loans early. Inside China, the yuan has been weakening on the resurgent black market, with up to 9 yuan to the US dollar in the south, compared with 8.28 for trade transactions.

IN BRIEF

Logica with £15m Shell contract

LOGICA, the fast-growing information technology consultancy, has won a major £15m computer support contract with Shell's UK exploration and production arm. Under the five-year deal - due to be announced today - Logica will take responsibility for maintaining and supporting all of Shell's computer applications, both onshore and offshore. The agreement brings 60 different contracts within Shell under Logica's control.

British Land buys City landmark

BRITISH LAND is buying the headquarters building of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, famous for its marble decor, for £206m. The building at One Exchange Square, Bishopsgate, was previously owned by DGI, the management company for Deutsche Bank's Open Ended Property Fund.

Amstrad blames digital TV

AMSTRAD, the consumer electronics firm where Alan Sugar is chairman, yesterday reported a pre-tax loss of £1.14m for the year to June as it invested heavily in new product development. Finance director Martin Bland said the loss reflected a £1m investment in developing digital set-top box decoders for British Sky Broadcasting and other telecoms products, both of which go on sale shortly.

Levi Strauss closes jeans plants

LEVI STRAUSS is to close three plants in Belgium and one in France due to production overcapacity and high costs. The American jeans giant, which has begun talks with the works committees of the plants involved (as required under European Union rules), said it had not decided how many jobs would go. Two plants in Texas will also close. It has already closed 10 assembly centres this year.

Daiwa cuts 50 London jobs

DAIWA SECURITIES, Japan's second-largest brokerage, confirmed it is to cut its overseas workforce to 1,000 from 1,800 by March 2000, as it seeks to focus on Japan, where competition in the brokerage industry is intensifying as a result of the "Big Bang" financial reforms. Fifty jobs are to go in London and it will close 12 of its 30 overseas offices to reduce annual overseas operating costs by 43 per cent. Daiwa Europe also said it planned to pull out of all non-yen denominated fixed-income activities apart from sales to Japanese clients.

dti

Department of Trade and Industry



Nobody profits from working too many hours.

Everybody knows a motivated and alert workforce produces the best work. When people work too many hours accidents happen, mistakes are made and nobody profits. October 1st sees the introduction of the new Working Time Regulations designed to help businesses be more productive. The Regulations represent fair minimum standards, while allowing flexibility for workers and employers to make arrangements which suit them. For further information about how these Regulations may affect you, call the Workright information line on (local rate) 0845 6000 925. Alternatively visit our website at www.dti.gov.uk/workright or fill in the coupon below. Similar but separate rules will apply in Northern Ireland.

For more information, fill in the coupon and return it to this address: Working Time Information, PO Box 66, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7QB. (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Mr/Ms/Ms Name _____ Address _____
(Please print clearly)

If you are enquiring on behalf of your organisation, please fill in these details: Company _____
Position _____ Business Type _____ No. of Employees ☐ 1-9 ☐ 10-250 ☐ 251-500 ☐ 500+

If you do not wish to receive further information from the dti on other subjects, please place a cross in the box ☐

WORKRIGHT

0845 6000 925

TI D

News analysis: The near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management has tarnished the image of hedge funds

Defending a sinking reputation

NOT ALL hedge funds are highly leveraged monsters lurking out of control.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

Although most of them have been hit by the global financial crisis, 15 of the top 20 funds, including some of the biggest, are still showing gains - this in a year when a fund manager investing in UK or US stocks would have seen all their gains wiped had they performed in line with their respective indices.

Some hedge funds, such as Julian Robertson's Tiger Fund, which takes big bets on global market trends, are actually ahead on the year, and faring better than conventional fund managers.

Mr Robertson is up 30 per cent in the year to August and still 19 per cent ahead today.

PDF, a smaller fund run by the little-known Peter Putron in London, which took out sell orders in Dresdner Bank shares, has performed particularly well. Dresdner lost badly as a result of Long-Term Capital Management's crisis and its shares fell sharply.

While there are fears that some hedge funds are close to collapse,

senior bankers involved in the Long-Term Capital Management bail-out say they are too small to wreak the havoc that Long-Term Capital Management would have done had it gone down.

Blair Tomlinson, a former bond dealer now observing from the sidelines at London-based consultancy Financial Risk, says: "Hedge funds, as a group, do not pose a systemic threat. There is no-one out there who compares in size or leverage to Long-Term Capital Management."

But even he admits: "That does not mean somebody out there won't go under."

Paul Tudor Jones, the manager and former cotton futures trader who has done relatively well, finds it irritating to see all hedge funds tarred with the same brush.

Likewise Warren Mosler, who runs his III Opportunities stable of funds from West Palm Beach in Florida, has accused banks of actively trying to close him down.

But if hedge fund managers



While Long-Term Capital Management may be seeing its losses scattered across the trading room floor, 13 out of the top 20 hedge funds are still showing gains

complain they are misunderstood they have only themselves to blame.

George Soros, the well-known hedge fund manager, famously told a Senate committee that regulators had no right to poke their nose in a business that clearly was not designed for widows and orphans.

There are three main types of hedge funds:

● **Equity long-short:** not unlike conventional stock-picking fund managers except that they short stocks they don't like as well as buying ones they do, and seek to balance their bets overall. Some of these have done well this year although whether that is sustainable

in a long-term bear market is a moot point.

● **Speculators (often called global):** these tend to be governed by the manager's view of global political developments and are more sensitive to political upsets such as changes in government.

They tend to invest in instruments such as currencies and

HEDGE FUND PERFORMANCE				
Hedge funds aggregated	Assets \$bn	August returns %	Yr to date returns %	Fund type
Tiger Management	15.136	1.01	30.77	Global Macro
Soros Asset Mgt	13.959	-13.11	0.93	Global
Moore Global Investment	4.000	-2.75	12.82	Global Macro
Zweig-Dimenna Int'l	2.603	-22.58	-14.10	Global
Everest Capital	2.500	-44.44	-53.78	Global
III Fund	2.418	-1.57	2.15	Market neutral
Ainslie LP	2.350	-9.19	10.93	Global
Sloane Robinson Investm't Mgt	2.099	-3.79	-6.41	Global
Perry Partners	2.076	-6.39	3.19	Event driven
CDC Investment Mgt Corp	1.786	0.43	5.43	Market neutral
Cooperman	1.754	-20.09	-14.01	Global Macro
Swiss Bank Corp	1.499	-2.31	-3.40	Global Macro
Orbis Global Equity	1.489	-4.46	5.26	Global
Highbridge Capital Corp	1.358	-5.54	1.29	Market neutral
Rosenberg Mkt Neutral Strat	1.214	4.59	6.91	Market neutral
Appaloosa Investment	1.162	-27.55	-20.96	Event driven
Alliance Capital Mgt	1.101	-13.55	0.22	Global
Ellington Composite	1.072	1.06	3.46	Market neutral
Spectrum Asset Mgt	1.070	-0.59	0.03	Market neutral
Halcyon/Alan Shiff Mgt	1.037	-4.52	8.57	Event driven

Source: Managed Account Report Ltd

bonds. This "trust me I know what I am doing school" is best exemplified by Julian Robertson's Tiger Fund and George Soros. Investors are invited to follow the cult.

● **Market neutral:** so-called because they aim to make money irrespective of the general market movement by exploiting discrepancies between markets. Long-Term Capital Management was the biggest in the game. Its speciality was arbitrage of large holdings of fixed-income bonds. It was also the most highly leveraged of all the funds. Not surprisingly highly-leveraged fixed-income specialists are the ones most seriously at risk.

What attracts many of the brightest fund managers to hedge funds is the freedom to borrow what they like, trade what they like, and even to wear what they like. Open-necked shirts are the rule.

But the controls they chafed against in their previous jobs were

there for a reason. Managers often say one thing and do another.

Hedge fund manager John Meriwether was notorious for not telling his investors what he was doing with their money.

As one wealthy individual who declined the offer to put the minimum stake of \$100m into Meriwether's fund says: "What scares me is that these people charge you 20 per cent if they make profits and give you nothing back when they lose money."

Bond funds played the US stock market earlier this year, and almost everyone played the 3-6-9 carry game, whereby you borrow cheap yen to buy high yielding bonds elsewhere. But the big danger is not so much gearing as hubris. "People forget that in the last downturn Goldman Sachs saw its capital wiped out. These guys are only as good as their last deal. But they all have the capacity of not living up to their reputation."

Chiroscience shares soar on gene finding

SHARES IN Chiroscience soared almost 7 per cent yesterday after the biotechnology group announced the discovery of a gene that could lead to the development of treatments for cancer, AIDS and arthritis.

The company said it had isolated a gene that regulates the body's immune response to a number of viruses. Controlling the gene, which was discovered in mice, would enable scientists to boost the body's defenses against a number of diseases, the company added.

Robert Jackson, director of research at Chiroscience, said: "This gene is a virtual off/on switch for the immune system and, depending on the disease, there are times when we need to turn the system off and times when we need to turn it on."

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Turning the immune system on would help to fight AIDS and cancer, where the body is too weak to defeat viruses. Switching it off would boost the body's defenses against diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes, where the condition is exacerbated by a strong immune response.

Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest drug development groups, is starting to design drugs based on the genes and expects to start trials on humans in about three years' time.

Researchers at the company's US subsidiary have also identified a gene that could increase bone density in patients suffering from osteoporosis - a painful bone-eating disease that

affects millions of women.

John Padfield, the company's chief executive, said the scientists were "three months away" from isolating the gene. The discovery could lead to the development of a drug that reverses the bone wasting caused by osteoporosis. "There is nothing on the market that increases bone density," Mr Padfield said.

Chiroscience also announced progress on a needle-free anesthetic being jointly developed with fellow biotech firm Powderject Pharmaceuticals.

The announcements pushed the shares up 16.5p to 264p. They have lost almost a quarter of their value since April, as investors fled biotechnology stocks following allegations of malpractice at British Biotech, the sector's flagship.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Astral (F)	53.3m (53.1m)	-1.136m (1.562m)	-1.33p (2.12p)	0.5p (0.5p)	4/1/98	05/10/98
AB Barr (F)	36.5m (57.0m)	8.30m (7.07m)	29.20p (33.20p)	7.0p (4.0p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
British Thomson (F)	6.2m (5.8m)	-5.31m (0.86m)	-29.7p (2.50p)	nil (-)	-	-
Buyle (F)	8.1m (8.3m)	0.32m (0.33m)	0.72p (1.25p)	0.25p (0.25p)	01/11/98	26/10/98
Charterhouse Capital (F)	6.1m (5.0m)	1.381m (1.023m)	1.4p (0.75p)	0.34p (0.23p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Chitani (F)	38.4m (19.0m)	4.029m (1.899m)	2.2p (1.15p)	0.70p (0.65p)	18/1/99	05/10/98
Cobham (F)	175.7m (151.1m)	30.0m (24.3m)	27.0p (18.2p)	2.65p (4.85p)	11/12/98	02/11/98
Coca-Cola (F)	569.6m (608.9m)	-2.0m (12.8m)	-0.74p (0.30p)	nil (-)	-	-
Commodities Deal (F)	6.8m (5.7m)	56.000 (-6.57m)	-0.1p (-21.7p)	nil (-)	-	-
Derwent Valley (F)	-	4.9m (5.0m)	7.52p (9.21p)	2.20p (2.05p)	09/11/98	18/10/98
Friends Inky & Stone (F)	17.4m (10.2m)	6.83m (5.37m)	4.27p (6.29p)	3.0p (2.65p)	15/10/98	05/10/98
Hogarth (F)	318.6m (324.6m)	31.5m (11.1m)	8.8p (1.3p)	3.0p (3.0p)	10/12/98	05/10/98
Interstate Cap. Trust (F)	-	19.42m (11.5m)	28.1p (17.5p)	6.1p (5.4p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Lancet Holdings (F)	42.0m (45.0m)	3.54m (0.03m)	9.24p (7.69p)	3.65p (3.55p)	01/12/98	05/11/98
S Lytle (F)	-	0.81m (0.50m)	10.50p (6.25p)	3.0p (2.25p)	04/01/99	30/11/98
Marylebone Wreck (F)	81.1m (19.5m)	10.01m (-10.08m)	13.8p (-22.1p)	3.75p	04/11/98	12/10/98
Metron Group (F)	5.1m (4.5m)	1.00m (0.70m)	8.80p (4.75p)	nil (-)	-	-
Mitron (F)	-	7.9m (8.4m)	7.1p (6.5p)	2.5p	06/04/99	05/10/98
Northern Leisure (F)	57.5m (34.7m)	14.1m (8.52m)	9.0p (6.1p)	5.75p (5.0p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Orbit's (F)	20.4m (12.5m)	-0.48m (-0.29m)	-2.25p (-3.85p)	0.75p (0.8p)	01/12/98	05/10/98
US Group (F)	28.1m (25.8m)	-0.58m (-0.90m)	-1.18p (-1.47p)	nil (-)	-	-
Railroad Trust (F)	-	38.67m (7.49m)	9.59p (2.15p)	0.50p (0.45p)	25/11/98	12/10/98
United Assurance (F)	-	188.7m (77.8m)	32.9p (9.5p)	0.0p (7.0p)	09/11/98	05/10/98
Wren Group (F)	106.1m (138.5m)	-29.7m (-46.8m)	-28.6p (-22.5p)	nil (-)	-	-
Wells Fargo Bank (F)	50.4m (50.5m)	4.560m (5.468m)	15.7p (15.0p)	4.4p (4.4p)	20/11/98	05/10/98
George Wimpey (F)	585.6m (528.1m)	25.0m (12.9m)	4.89p (2.33p)	2.01p (2.0p)	28/10/98	05/10/98

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (A) - New Month EPS is pre-exceptional *Dividend to be paid as PD

This formal notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of and has been approved by London Stock Exchange Limited ("The London Stock Exchange"). This formal notice should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated 29 September, 1998 which contains details of Exeter Enhanced Income Fund Limited and the Ordinary Shares being offered. Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for all of the Ordinary Shares in Exeter Enhanced Income Fund Limited to be admitted to The Official List. It is expected that such admission will become effective and that dealings in the Ordinary Shares will commence on 6 October, 1998. This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or to purchase securities.

Hoare Govett Limited, which is regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited, is acting for Exeter Enhanced Income Fund Limited and for no one else in connection with the Placing and will not be responsible to anyone other than Exeter Enhanced Income Fund Limited for providing the protections afforded to customers of Hoare Govett Limited or for affording advice in relation to the contents of the Prospectus or on any matters referred to herein.

EXETER ENHANCED INCOME FUND LIMITED

(Incorporated in Guernsey with registration number 344431)

Placing by
Hoare Govett Limited

of up to
40,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each
at a price of 100p per Share

Share Capital		Issued and to be issued, fully paid (assuming the Placing is fully subscribed)	
Authorised	Number	Nominal Value	Number
	100,000,000	£10,000,000	40,000,000
		Ordinary Shares of 25p each	

Copies of the Prospectus relating to Exeter Enhanced Income Fund Limited, published on 29 September, 1998, may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 13 October, 1998, from:

Hoare Govett Limited
4 Broadgate
London EC2M 7LE
and during normal business hours up to and including 2 October, 1998, for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.

30 September, 1998

Posthouse

It's easy to relax at Posthouse



leisure and health clubs
at over 40 locations

After a stressful day, unwind in one of our relaxing leisure and health clubs available at over 40 hotels around the UK and Ireland - that's more than any other hotel group.

Then enjoy a drink in the bar followed by a delicious meal in one of our informal restaurants.

Just a few of the many reasons to stay at a Posthouse.

Posthouse
first for all the right reasons

Posthouse is a member of the Hilton Hotels

SHARES/21

SHARES/21

Champions' League: Giggs injury and Butt suspension pose twin problems on a night when Ferguson must get it right

United facing a test of maturity

MUNICH WAS quiet yesterday morning. Having been the only part of the German south-east to vote for the victorious socialists it was suffering the consequences of combining election celebrations with the Oktoberfest.

But, as the players of Bayern Munich or Manchester United will find out tomorrow morning, you do not need to be drunkenly bungee to feel terrible.

If either side loses tonight's Champions' League tie they will still wake with all those feelings of regret and remorse. Defeat in the Olympic Stadium could spell the beginning of the end for either side, Bayern having lost in Copenhagen the night United were being held at home by Barcelona.

Those results showed how tight Group D is, but, though Alex Ferguson insisted yesterday that nine points could be enough, it will be difficult to qualify should they only gain one from the first two games.

United will be hamstrung by the loss of Ryan Giggs and Ronny Johnsen. The absence of Giggs, who is suffering from a foot injury sustained against Liverpool, is a blow as European football seems to bring the best from him.

With Nicky Butt also suspended Ferguson may play Jesper Blomqvist on the left though another, more defensive, option would be to recall Henning Berg in defence, move Gary Neville back to full-back and play brother Phil in midfield.

The decision is a difficult one for Ferguson as the latter option may be interpreted by his players as an indication of a lack of confidence in them. It is easy to forget how many players are young or new to Old Trafford's special pressures and such a move could exacerbate the insecurity which sometimes manifests itself in this United side.

It did against Barcelona. One reason the Spanish got back into a game United had won was a reluctance by the Old Trafford side to continue playing their aggressive, high-tempo football. The inclination to drop back and defend a lead is a natural one in footballers but it has the effect of inviting pressure and Barcelona took full advantage.

Ferguson yesterday admitted his players still had some maturing to do at this level. Though they had a lot of European experience for their age they were still being asked fresh questions, questions to which they would only learn the answer through trial and error. There is, he said, an

BY GLENN MOORE
in Munich

immaturity to their decision-making sometimes and it showed against Barcelona. "We have to impose and express ourselves," he added.

United's task may be eased by the pressure on their opponents. Uli Hoeneß, a member of the Bayern side which won three European Cups in the mid-Seventies, and created a milestone for every successive team, regards the present squad as "the most talented in 20 years". Since he is the club's general manager that creates a lot of expectation for Ottmar Hitzfeld, the club's ninth coaching appointment of the decade.

Having led Borussia Dortmund to a surprise Champions' League triumph two years ago - during which they defeated United in the semi-finals - Hitzfeld at least has the pedigree to cope. Judging by their domestic start, six straight wins - he may also have the squad.

There are 16 full internationals in his pack, six of these, including defender Marcus Babel, a former United transfer target, were called up by the national team on Monday. The uncapped Carsten Jancker was also selected and Stefan Effenberg would have been if available. There is also a French World Cup winner in Bixente Lizarazu; Giovane Elber, who was recalled by Brazil yesterday; and assorted other internationals from Ghana and Bosnia to Turkey and Iran. The latter is represented by Ali Daei, who impressed at the World Cup.

Tony Woodcock, the former Nottingham Forest striker who won a European Cup medal in Munich in 1979, said of Daei: "He's very good on the ground and strong in the air. They think they can get at United's defence through the centre and can pick from Daei, Jancker, who's very strong, and Elber who's a goal machine."

Ferguson was understandably reluctant to talk about the historical resonance of the tie, United's first trip to Munich since the 1958 air crash.

"It's a very emotional part of the club but we're just here for the game," he said. "It's just another big match," added Roy Keane, articulating the view of most of the players. Even so, while the match is on terrestrial television there may be a few celestial viewers tonight.

Probable teams: Bayern Munich: Kahn; Mathies; Babel; Linke; Strunz; Jeremies; Effenberg; Salimowicz; Lizarazu; Elber; Jancker or Daei. Manchester United: Schmeichel; Irwin; G. Neville; Stam; P. Neville; Beckham; Scholes; Keane; Blomqvist; Yorke; Solskjær. Referee: M. Batta (France).

Van Gaal's problem is missing players

INJURIES AND ineligibility have conspired to limit the options of the Barcelona coach, Louis van Gaal, for the European Cup Champions' League Group D match against their Danish visitors Brøndby today.

The lengthy injury list includes Oscar Garcia, Albert Celades and Miguel Angel Nadal. Patrick Kluivert and Mauricio Pellegrino are the men who are ineligible.

The Brazilian Sonny Anderson will return as the Barcelona target man in place of Kluivert and Van Gaal indicated he was considering recalling the Nigerian teenager Gbenga Okunowo to the right-back position

and returning Luis Enrique Martinez to his more natural role as a central midfielder. Rivaldo would then move out to the far left, leaving the Dutch international Boudewijn Zenden to sit among the substitutes.

Real Madrid arrived in Russia with a bulging winter wardrobe determined not to let Spartak Moscow or the local weather freeze them out of Wednesday's European Cup Champions' League Group C game.

The Spaniards arrived on Monday minus injured World Cup scorer David Suñer but with an array of hats, gloves and fleece jackets and a tonne of meat and vegetables.



Stefan Effenberg, the gifted Bayern Munich midfielder aiming to lose his bad-boy reputation against United today Empics

Effenberg's finger on the pulse

RECOGNITION COMES in many forms but few are as lasting as a place in the language. Yet while the progenitors of the "Ali Shuffle" and the "Cruyff Turn" will forever feel pride in their bequest, some sportsmen are less enamoured of their footnote in linguistic history.

In England, Harvey Smith, despite a glittering career in show-jumping, will be forever remembered for a two-fingered salute 27 years ago. In Germany, Stefan Effenberg is in danger of earning a similar notoriety.

The Bayern Munich midfielder is one of the most gifted German players of his generation but the world knows him for a one-fingered gesture in Dallas. Germany were struggling against South Korea in the World Cup when Effenberg made it quite clear what he thought of German supporters' criticism.

He was immediately substituted and sent home by Bert Vogts, who said he would never pick him again.

Bayern's veteran midfield motivator is determined to atone for the gesture that almost destroyed him. By Glenn Moore

"Making an Effe" has since entered the lexicon of German slang. The 30-year-old already had a wild reputation. As a youngster with Borussia Mönchengladbach he "borrowed" the manager's jeep to escape from a training camp and crashed it. He also "shot up" a Stuttgart hotel room with an air pistol and, in his first spell at Bayern, asked the then-manager, Jupp Heynckes, "outside" to settle an argument.

He had moved to Bayern with the explanation "all the other clubs are too stupid to win the championship" which, unsurprisingly, led to him being jeered at away games. Though he moved to Fiorentina the resent-

ment lingered before surfacing again in Dallas.

Effenberg spent four years in exile but had the final word. Recalled by Vogts after Germany's World Cup failure he played two games but after Vogts' sacking, he declared he was no longer available. This may have been linked to the appointment of Erich Ribbeck, who had sold him in his first spell at Bayern but it is believed he was simply not interested in playing for an unusually poor German team.

Thus the Champions' League assumes paramount importance for Effenberg who has yet to win even a domestic championship let alone a European honour.

Effenberg was a key figure in

Borussia Mönchengladbach's UEFA Cup win over Arsenal two seasons ago and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, is aware of his threat. "We respect him, he's earned that through his football," Ferguson said. "All good teams have someone taking responsibility and influencing play and he and Lothar Matthäus do that for them. For a player of his age Effenberg's got a good stamina level, he's still prepared to go box-to-box."

Tony Woodcock, the former England striker now living in Germany, added: "He's the central midfield kingpin Bayern have lacked for several years. They had three or four players fighting for the position but he has made himself No 1. He's an elegant player who works hard, a very good footballer."

Yet time is running out if he is to be remembered for that, rather than for "making an Effe". Inspiring a revival of Bayern's European glories might do the trick.

Antwerp nursery for Old Trafford

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED are signing a feeder deal with the Belgian club, Royal Antwerp, to groom their stars of the future. United have struck up an agreement with Antwerp to loan young players and use the club as a way round United's problems of signing the best teenage talent from around the world.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, set the deal in motion when he asked United to find him a nursery team who could take on the likes of South American and African players, who cannot get work permits in England unless they are established internationals.

The key to the deal is the more liberal work permit regulations in Belgium - in Britain at present, non-European Union players must be recognised as senior internationals, a handicap that has hindered United and helped their Spanish and Italian rivals in the past.

The plan is for United to finance the transfers of a handful of young Brazilians, Argentinians and Africans in the coming months, who will all join Antwerp. United will then foot the bill for all the expenses involved in bringing foreign players to Europe.

"We do have regulations, but they are not as severe as in England," Antwerp's secretary, Paul Bistiaux, said last night. "In Belgium you can get a work permit more easily, based on a minimum salary. If you have the promise of a job paying £10,000 a year you are allowed in."

United's scouts have been scouring South America and Africa for months, attempting to earmark the best emerging talent and now can bring them in under their wing at Antwerp.

"Who signs will be United's decision," Bistiaux added. "They will also make all of the financial arrangements. We hope to have some of the best young players in the world at our club and we are proud to have these links between us. The co-operation will be strictly on the field. United are not buying the club, they are using us for a mutual benefit."

Bistiaux revealed that Arsenal had approached Antwerp first, during last season, but they wanted a complete takeover. Antwerp, a club with a proud and famous tradition, did not want that.

United have already let their talented left-back, Danny Higginbotham, go to Antwerp on loan. However, the main advantage will be recruiting the best non-EC talent, and there could be some arrivals within a month.

Once the leading foreign youngsters settle in Belgium they will qualify for EU citizenship after a couple of years and are then free to move on to United, who will have first call on their services.

In the near future, work permit rules for footballers may alter, with moves in the pipeline to allow clubs up to five non-EU players, regardless of their international experience.

Manchester United would not confirm the deal yesterday. "We are talking to a Belgian club, but I can't say which one," said Peter Kenyon, United's deputy chief executive yesterday. "Nothing has been finalised yet."

None the less, United's quick thinking has left their rivals trailing, but undoubtedly leading clubs will soon look at this as a way of getting round the system. Arsenal have looked into the concept while Liverpool may also follow suit. However the amount of money involved may restrict the number able to pursue such an ambitious plan which will require investment but should inevitably pay dividends.

Parlour's injury a setback for Wenger

AMID THE fall-out - and fall-over - of Saturday's game against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough, the late substitution of Arsenal's Ray Parlour by Fredrik Ljungberg went understandably unnoticed. It may turn out, however, to have more serious consequences than incidents involving Martin Keown, who was sent off with Paolo Di Canio, or Patrick Vieira, who has been accused of pushing a policeman after the match.

According to the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, Keown should receive a sympathetic hearing when the club appeal against his dismissal, and Vieira has nothing to answer for. But the ankle injury suffered by Parlour gives him only a 30 per

cent chance, in the manager's assessment, of being fit to play in tonight's European Champions' League game against Panathinaikos at Arsenal's adopted Wembley home.

The midfielder was considered by many to have been his team's outstanding player in their opening match in Lens, which they dominated for long periods before conceding a last-minute equaliser. Ljungberg, only recently acquired, is ineligible so the talented, but less experienced, Stephen Hughes can expect to start.

Wenger spent much of yesterday's news conference defending Arsenal's disciplinary record in the two years since he

took over, during which time they have received 15 red cards and too many yellow ones for even the most dedicated anorak to count. "I don't think we are a bad team," he said. "So where are we wrong? I don't really know." Of Keown's dismissal on Saturday he said: "He didn't deserve to be sent off. He tried to calm things down and even when he was kicked, he didn't react."

Wenger also claimed to have been right behind Vieira in the tunnel after the game when, he says, "Nothing happened. Sometimes Patrick over-reacts when he's a little bit upset. But he doesn't get the protection he deserves. Some players go into the game to try and upset him."

If Panathinaikos have done

their homework, they will appreciate how important to Arsenal is Vieira's midfield combination with his countryman Emmanuel Petit and they will also know that a little niggling in that area could pay off. Vieira is the one Arsenal player on a yellow card going into tonight's game, having committed an unnecessary foul that led to Lens' late goal.

The Arsenal dressing-room was a disappointed one after that game as the realisation sank in that two invaluable points had been frittered away in a group from which only one side is certain to qualify. Their mood improved a little when news arrived that Panathinaikos had come from behind to beat Dynamo Kiev,

whom Wenger regards as favourites to win the group.

"In this competition even more perhaps than in the Premier League, the game is never over," Wenger said. "We were guilty of being a little over-confident. It was a shock. To have a chance of qualifying from the group we have to win our home games."

A crowd of up to 75,000 - 10,000 of them Greek - is expected at Wembley, where talk of the "wide open spaces" may prove illusory: the pitch is only two yards wider than Highbury and narrower than that of several Premier League clubs.

David Seaman is fit to resume in goal but will not have to face the Greek team's captain and record goal-scorer

Krzysztof Warzycha, an old adversary from Poland-England games, who is injured.

Other familiar names are Norway's Erik Mykland, the little midfielder who helped dump Graham Taylor's side out of the 1994 World Cup; Croatia's Aljosa Asanovic, formerly of Derby County; and Warzycha's replacement Frank Strandli, who played 14 games for Leeds in 1993.

Rumours-up to Olympiakos in the Greek League last season, Panathinaikos have an impressive European pedigree, dating back to the 1971 European Cup final at Wembley against Ajax. They lost to Liverpool in the 1983 semi-final.

Unlike Paul Alcock, they will be no pushover.

Want

to save money on
your phone bill compared
to BT or get double
the difference back?

FreeCall 0800 056 8182
What can we do for you?



Free. Prepaid service and conditions apply. For full details see our price list call 0800 056 8182. All information correct as at 1st August 1998. Applications subject to status. Service, price and usage subject to change. For quality of service purposes we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls on Cable & Wireless Call Centres.

'Pushed' Dicks defends referee

Adam's admiration for Guerin

Meanwhile Rousset, who has missed the last two games with a back injury, travelled with the squad that left Glasgow yesterday. He could return to the side tomorrow, but Steve Fulton, who has a hamstring injury is rated only 50-50.

Masva hungry for fifth success

home for the fifth successive time a year ago. Also competing will be a host of British international cross-country and marathon runners including Dave Lewis, Mark Crossdale, Colin Moore, Dave Tume, Mick Hawkins, Andrew Pearson, Dave Long and Bill Foster.

The Nationwide Football League managers Peter Reid (Sunderland), Peter Jackson (Huddersfield), Lennie Lawrence (Luton) and Ian Burterworth (Darlington) will also compete in the event.

Classic (7 30) for Mail.

SPORT

CLARKE THE ENGLAND DIAMOND P22 • HENMAN'S MUNICH MISERY P23

Clinical Collymore cuts loose

BY PHIL SHAW
in OsloStromsgodset 0
Aston Villa 3
Aston Villa win 6-2 on aggregate

STAN COLLYMORE, a peripheral figure in Aston Villa's ascent to the Premiership summit, made a stunning return to active service in a Norwegian downpour last night. Two early goals by the £7m enigma ended Stromsgodset's Uefa Cup challenge almost before it began, and he completed his hat-trick shortly after the hour.

While the evening was clearly a personal success for Collymore - who was playing only because Paul Merson signed from Middlesbrough too late to be eligible - it also represented a triumph of teamwork and resilience. Villa had been 2-0 down with eight minutes of the first leg remaining before the 18-year-old Darius Vassell capped a remarkable fightback, but once Collymore had scored twice in the space of 14 minutes their place in Friday's second-round draw was never in doubt.

The last Villa player to collect a hat-trick in Continental competition was Gary Shaw in a European Cup tie against Dinamo Bucharest 15 autumns ago. Collymore has a long way to go before he can even hope to match the popularity of Shaw, whom he once idolised from the Holte End, yet this was a promising if somewhat belated start.

His opening salvo, a brutal drive with his right foot, was almost a carbon copy of the one he scored as a substitute when Villa bowed out of the same competition to Atletico Madrid at the quarter-final stage in March. That, coincidentally, was his last goal, since when he has tended to make headlines at the front end of the newspapers rather than on the sports pages.

For his second, which finally took him into double figures more than a year after he arrived from Liverpool, Collymore used his left foot. His powerful running with the ball and interplay with Julian Joachim merited a third goal, which duly came from close range as what had started as a struggle became a stroll for Villa.

Collymore's contribution gives John Gregory the sort of selection problem managers relish for Saturday's derby at Coventry. He was starting only his second match this season, and for the fourth time in Gregory's six-month reign.

The contrast with Villa's venture to Madrid could hardly have been more marked. The council-owned Marianystad Stadium proved to be of



The Aston Villa striker Stan Collymore hits his first goal past defender Erlend Johnsen on the way to a hat-trick in the Uefa Cup tie in Stromsgodset last night

Tom H...

Conference size, its capacity of 4,200 having been increased only by temporary seating.

In terms of history and resources, the disparity between Stromsgodset and Villa is similarly pronounced. The club from the port of Drammen have been professional for just two years, compared with the visitors' 110. They have fewer than 20 full-time staff, against the 104 in Doug Ellis's employ, and were playing only their 12th match in Europe

whereas Villa have claimed the premier prize.

The clubs' recent fortunes have also been sharply divergent. For while Villa's rampant start has their followers dreaming of the championship, Stromsgodset are fighting against relegation. Their caretaker manager, Jens Martin Stoten, was working at his physiotherapy practice until two hours before kick-off; Gregory only ever has to massage egos.

Stoten had been able to recall his former Premiership players, Jostein Flo and Erlend Johnsen, and both figured prominently in an eventful opening. The towering Flo, once of Sheffield United, operated as a lone target man, with Stromsgodset's midfielders presumably under orders to support him when possible. The play worked just once, in the seventh minute, when Flo flicked on and Christer George sent a looping header over the bar.

Villa responded so positively that the tie was effectively over with the first half barely past the midway point. In the 11th minute, Johnsen's control belied his spells with Chelsea and Bayern Munich and Collymore pounced on the loose ball. Cutting in from the left, he angled an 18-yard shot across Glenn Arne Hansen.

After a further, Flo-induced scare in which Stromsgodset had two efforts blocked and another saved by Mark Bosnich following a corner,

Collymore struck again in the 24th minute. An intricate build-up on Villa's right flank culminated in a shot by Ian Taylor. When Hansen parried, the ball broke to Villa's No 9, who dispatched it clinically from 10 yards.

Collymore's final thrust owed everything to the selfless work of Joachim. The diminutive attacker beat a defender on the byline before delivering a low pass which invited a simple tap-in.

The only downside for Villa, on a night when they also kept their seventh clean sheet in nine games, were yellow cards for Taylor and Alan Thompson. Both were also cautioned at Villa Park and will therefore miss the club's next European fixture.

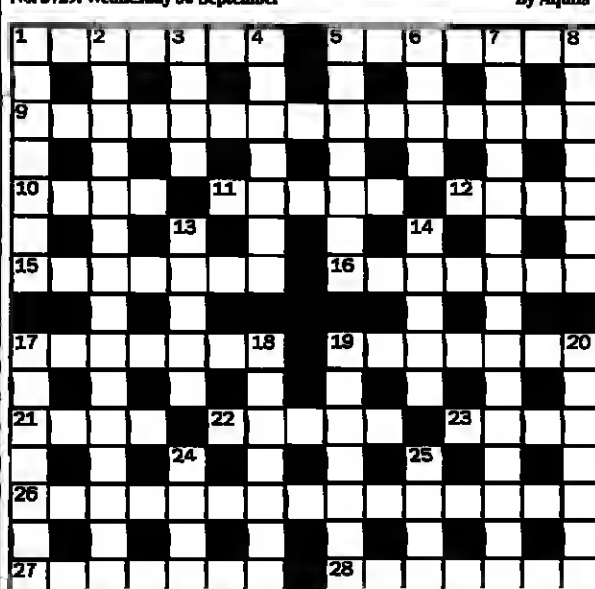
Stromsgodset (4-5-1): Hansen; Granas, Johnson, Skovd, Webster; George (H E Olsengard, 67), Nym, Solberg (Strom, 85), E Hagen (L Olsen, 67), R Hagen; Flo. Aston Villa (2-5-2): Bosnich; Diego, Southgate, Grayson; Charles (Schmeke, 51), Taylor (Ferreira, 70), Draper, Thompson, Wright; Joachim, Collymore. Referee: H Scott (Switzerland).

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3729, Wednesday 30 September

By Aquila

Today's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 A scrap in Derby, for example - its natural home (7)
- 5 Nicola C. rambling? Quite the opposite! (7)
- 9 Latin-derived name for Chichester (15)
- 10 Muddling ring to distress call (2-2)
- 11 End of talking parrot or crow (5)
- 12 Vehicle in reverse on motorway? (4)
- 15 Rabbits on pancakes (7)
- 16 Don long to be embraced by better half (7)
- 17 Silly old guys at the end of the line (7)
- 19 Lexicographer once a weaver (7)
- 21 Refusing to heed notes (4)
- 22 A great stop at sea (5)
- 23 Old Indian of a certain caste (4)
- 26 Refurbished Holm hospital got an eye specialist? (15)
- 27 Possibly clear city of misappropriation (7)
- 28 Great North American variety of songbird (7)

DOWN

- 1 Cutter of steel and jade observed (7)
- 2 A Fife shortbread in pieces? They tend to stick together (5,2,1,7)
- 3 Expedition as far as ancient city (4)
- 4 Thrills of square English in Spain (7)
- 5 Mad young thing always in constraint (7)
- 6 Composer in four keys (4)
- 7 Still having no credit? (15)
- 8 Type of pigeon that can spread disease (7)
- 13 This river run over end of street? (5)
- 14 Puts coat on clumsily (5)
- 17 Play the fool with light sack (7)
- 18 Hotel taking in the Spanish sausage (7)
- 19 Total failure of Shaw play abroad (7)
- 20 Letter from America? (7)
- 24 Hose embroidered in Oxford, possibly (4)
- 25 Book for the convenience of Americans (4)

'I deserved a red card' says Di Canio

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

PAOLO DI CANIO has admitted that referee Paul Alcock was right to send him off for kicking the Arsenal defender Martin Keown.

Sheffield Wednesday's Italian striker reacted furiously when Alcock produced the red card at Hillsborough on Saturday, pushing the official to the ground. Di Canio, who has been suspended by the club and charged with misconduct by the Football Association, has now accepted that Alcock made a correct decision.

But, though his agent yesterday issued an apology, the striker still insists the referee "play-acted" and that he was unfairly targeted for being a firecracker. Speaking from Rome, Di Canio said: "What I did was wrong because you should never let things reach that

point, but I think this whole thing has been exaggerated. Keown came up and hit me in the face.

"At that point I couldn't see anything because I could feel the blood coming out and the pain made my head spin. I lost my temper. I think that, for the reaction I had, I deserved to be sent off."

Keown has appealed against his red card, insisting he was acting as a peacemaker, but Di Canio claims that Alcock also made the right decision in sending off the Arsenal man. "I think Keown deserved to be sent off as well," he said. "I acted badly towards the referee but it was just a slight push, and he took two or three paces back and fell over, just like a

player does when he wants a free-kick. It was a bit of play-acting. Every Saturday I get kicked around a lot and nobody is there to protect me. This isn't fair and it seems to me that the treatment handed out to foreigners is harsher than what the others get. The problem is that the English are jealous of foreign players."

Di Canio's agent, Matteo Roggi, moved to minimise the damage by saying: "He is really sorry for what happened during the game on Saturday and would like to apologise to everyone for his actions to the referee, to his manager Danny Wilson, his team-mates and the Sheffield Wednesday fans."

Di Canio, who has 14 days to respond to the FA and request a personal hearing, appears certain to be handed a long ban.

Forest pledge Dutchman

BY ALAN NIXON

NOTTINGHAM FOREST have asked the Premier League for a £5m loan, using Pierre Van Hoojdonk as collateral. The Dutchman has been on strike, refusing to rejoin Forest after they rejected his transfer request.

Forest want the cash to sign a replacement and plan to repay the money when they sell Van Hoojdonk. "The Premier League will never agree with this," Van Hoojdonk said from the Netherlands. "It's unrealistic and silly. If Forest get permission it will open the door for every club to ask for loans."

Walter Smith, the Everton manager, launched his clear-

ance sale yesterday by selling the centre-half, Carl Tiler, to Charlton for £700,000. Tiler agreed to the switch after Sheffield United pulled out.

Crystal Palace have bought the Swedish international, Mathias Svensson, from the Austrian side, FC Tirol. The Eagles have also agreed terms with Rangers for Craig Moore.

Richard Littlejohn, whose consortium have had a takeover bid for Tottenham rejected, and Alan Sugar, continued their war of words yesterday, the Spurs chairman responding to being

described as "stupid" and "greedy" in Littlejohn's column.

"His article is full of inaccuracies," Sugar said. "I find when Tottenham needs a new owner, it would have to be a big corporation with deep pockets and huge resources and not, with respect, a group of passionate fans with a sarcastic, career-enhancing media mouthpiece as their spokesman."

Queen's Park Rangers are unlikely to appoint Iain Dowie or Vivian Jones, both of whom want the job, to replace the sacked Ray Harford. The chairman, Chris Wright, says he will make an appointment by 17 October.

MORSE

No. 1 for Sun.

It's a fact.

Sun Microsystems has recognised our commitment to its products and technology: that's why Morse is Sun's Reseller of the Year. Again.

For example, our Enterprise Computing Centre helps customers and partners prepare and test Sun systems for large-scale application projects.

Call 0800 228888 to receive our No.1 for Sun brochure, chock-full of facts about Morse.

Morse Computers
www.morse.com

July 2015

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



This man's account of his childhood in Auschwitz has earned him the respect of Jews, the attention of Steven Spielberg and a place alongside Primo Levi in Holocaust literature. He has been accused of writing a piece of fiction



This man has retired from an academic career founded upon his impeccable liberal credentials. He is a former SS officer and Himmler henchman who came back from the dead and remarried his own widow

Benjamin Wilkomirski's book of childhood memories, *Bruchstücke*, makes harrowing reading. It details how during his boyhood his "playgrounds" were the concentration camps of Majdanek and Auschwitz, where he saw his friends being killed by sadistic guards. It is a story told in nightmarish, fragmented detail, with scenes too terrible to be remembered as anything but flashing images and threatening shadows.

In the book, people are glimpsed only as visual imprints - a boot, an arm, a uniform; scenes the boy witnessed are recalled in hallucinatory detail. A man smiles at the child: "suddenly his face is contorted, he turns away, lifts up his head, opens his mouth as if to let out a mighty cry. From underneath, against the light sky, I see the contours of his jaw and the hat which is sliding backwards. No cry comes out of his throat but a mighty, black geyser gushes forth from his neck as a vehicle crushes him against the wall of the house, and his bones are snapping." The reader is confronted with the death of Benjamin's father at the hands of Latvian militiamen, and that of his mother in the camp.

Since its appearance in 1995, the book has quickly established itself among the classics of Holocaust literature alongside the works of Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel. It has been translated into 12 languages, put on the reading lists of schools and universities, and been awarded the National Jewish Book Award, the Jewish Quarterly Literary Prize and the Prix de la Mémoire de la Shoah. Reviews the world over have reinforced its position as a monument to individual suffering, "dark, Proustian memories" and "poetic visions" (*New York Times*), carrying "the weight of an entire century" (*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*), and bearing out the tortuous way of bringing back what had long been repressed. The critic of the American publication *The Nation* even declared the book to be "so moving, of such moral importance and so free of literary artifice that I ask myself whether I have any right to praise it... This man has survived - we don't know how, his sanity seems a miracle - and he gives this present of an almost perfect pain to a world that is still ready to destroy the innocent."

In an epilogue, the author tells that the authorities in Switzerland, where he grew up after the war, deprived him of his Jewish identity. He was called Bruno Doessekker, provided with a false birth certificate and adopted by a Swiss family, all in an effort to erase his early ordeal from his memory and from the world. Later, the publisher supplied more information about the genesis of these traumatic recollections. Only psychotherapy had been able to unlock his memories of life in the land of the dead.

Wilkomirski has since appeared at conventions and conferences, talking about this process, and has given readings and spoken in schools. He has been the guest of the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and of several universities. He has also contributed to Steven Spielberg's epic oral history programme of interviews with survivors of the Holocaust.

The double existence as the Swiss Bruno Doessekker and as Benjamin Wilkomirski, the former Riga Jew, an earlier self which he has been able to rediscover only as a mature man, has now been called into question by a Swiss journalist, Daniel Ganzfried, who claims that his research into the author's background suggests that Wilkomirski spent his entire childhood in the Swiss cities of Biel and Zurich; that he was the illegitimate son of one Yvonne Grosjean, and was later adopted by the Doessekker family. Ganzfried claims that Bruno Doessekker did not spend his early years in Eastern Europe, and says he has evidence that the boy spoke perfect Zurich dialect when he went to school at the age of seven in 1947, despite the fact that, according to his

story, he would have only just arrived in Switzerland. Benjamin Wilkomirski, so Ganzfried claimed, had not preceded Bruno Doessekker, but it had been the other way round, a Swiss man imagining a previous existence as a Riga Jew that overhappened.

Though the book has already gained the acclaim of historians and reviewers alike, details of the text are now beginning to be questioned by some historians, who believe that some episodes are historically impossible and others are extremely unlikely. Faced with these accusations, Wilkomirski defended himself by claiming that all these questions had already been answered in the epilogue to his book, where he had made it clear that his "official" life had been exclusively Swiss, but claimed that that did not affect the authenticity of his memories, as it had been the policy of the Swiss government to provide new identities for surviving children in its care.

Wilkomirski said that "it has always been possible for my readers to read my book as literature". Whether the work is fact or fiction is a question that remains open to interpretation. The publishers are standing by the book as fact, and the author continues to appear on historical congresses and has even identified the house in Riga in which he spent his early childhood.

Such an aestheticisation of history may appeal to post-modernists, to whom the author Wilkomirski may become a hero and emblem of the *Indefinite play of signifiers*, a dance of fact and fiction placing truth in the eye of the beholder. As a book tied to a definite historical event, however, and to questions of individual and collective guilt and responsibility, these delicate issues of truth and fiction erodes the very ground on which remembrance can be built, especially in Germany, a country that is still profoundly ill at ease both with its recent history and with the ways in which it can be remembered, and is dogged by a small but vocal group persistently doubting the veracity of the genocide of the Jews.

While there are genuine concerns that questioning the book may play into the hands of those who deny the Holocaust, it has also been pointed out that it would be far more damaging to leave it up to readers to determine whether this text should be treated as a document or as a work of fiction, the very ambiguity on which such a denial of genocide thrives.

Whatever the outcome, the affair is deeply embarrassing for all concerned. For Suhrkamp, Germany's most prestigious "intellectual" publishing house who accepted it (it did seek expert advice, and was encouraged to do so), and for those who sang its praises without questioning any possible inconsistencies. It also could be another blow for the already widely discredited therapeutic method of "retrieved memory", which has led to countless allegations of childhood sexual abuse, many of which have later been demonstrated to have no basis in fact.

The split identity of a supposed victim of the Holocaust is echoed by a second affair to occupy the German media: the case of Hans Schwerte, the former rector of Aachen University, a left-leaning liberal who gained his reputation by conciliating between the radical students and the conservative academic establishment during the Sixties. He was a leading literary scholar and adviser in educational questions to the German government, and a participant at the "Nuremberg talks", a forum of academics that set out to draft the "presentation and popularisation of left-wing liberalism". He is now living in a retirement home near Munich.

Schwerte was an expert on Goethe's scholar-hero Faust, who famously exclaimed "two souls live, woe is me, in this one chest". This turned out to be something of a literary and biographical irony when, in 1995, Schwerte was proved to be identical with one Hauptsturmführer Ernst-Hans Schneider, a high-ranking SS

officer and ideologue, who had supposedly been killed during the last days of the war.

With exemplary precision, Schwerte had relived the life of his earlier self. After conveniently "killing off" the Nazi Schneider, he had married Schneider's "widow", thus staying married to the same woman; had written a second doctoral dissertation; and was rewarded for his service to the education system with the merit cross of the German Federal Republic and several other medals, just as Schneider had been awarded the Iron Cross.

Schwerte enjoyed a successful and fruitful career as a literary scholar and university teacher before it was exposed that he had been, as Schneider, a prominent member of Heinrich Himmler's "Ahnenerbe" office, responsible not only for helping to formulate a National-Socialist vision of the German past and of "Germanic science", but also for requisitioning medical equipment for human experiments in the Dachau concentration camp. He had also called, at the end of the war, for a "total war of German science". After his exposure he was stripped of his honours. A Fascist wolf in liberal sheepskin, the ultimate opportunist, or, as he himself prefers, a man who lacked courage but who did atone through his later actions, Schneider/Schwerte is emblematic for the culture of bureaucratic killers who changed their tune after the collapse of the vision of Germanic world domination that they had once believed in, and had helped to create.

In a final twist to his tale, the former professor who claimed for himself a second chance without personal accountability was forced to live by the name under which he had allegedly been accessory to murder, though criminal proceedings against him collapsed. Now, after the publication of two competing biographies, the discussions about his case have flared up again, discussions that deal not only with a single SS officer turned liberal academic, but with the entire phenomenon of former Nazis gaining important positions in post-war intellectual life.

The academic establishment that allowed Schwerte to rise to prominence, the Technical University of Aachen, is not keen to have its workings investigated too closely. The author of one of the biographies was threatened with legal proceedings should he claim any complicity with, and knowledge of, Schwerte's dual identity among university colleagues.

The celebrated and admired east-European Jewish victim who may just be gentle and Swiss (and confused), and the left-wing academic who has been a Nazi ideologue: these two so very different figures have, strangely, much in common. Both stories are symptoms of a nation's struggle to deal with its past, which on the one hand makes a fetish of victims, while on the other prefers the perpetrators to be dead, not part of their present and enmeshed in other people's lives. At the same time, it is no accident that these discussions did not take place earlier.

It took a new generation of historians and journalists without personal memories of this time to ask these questions, a generation that asks more directly and is less afraid to expose old taboos. This, of course, is also part of the current political problems Germany is experiencing. Along with less sentimentality comes, all too often, less sensitivity and less knowledge.

Whether Benjamin Wilkomirski or Bruno Doessekker, Hans Schwerte or Ernst-Hans Schneider, the shadow of the Third Reich is still looming over Germany and over a new crop of commentators struggling to make sense of it all in the language not coloured by personal involvement. Many aspects of Germany's official culture of remembrance have long been due for an overhaul: annual and ritualised chest-beating on selected dates has given rise to the temptation to dismiss the historical terror to-

gether with the modern manifestations of its continuing presence. Guilt that is learnt by rote can also lead to hatred.

The last 50 years of German history have been marked by attempts to reinvent the nation without allowing it to escape from its own shadow. As this task is taken over by a new generation, the two unconnected and bizarre episodes of Benjamin Wilkomirski and Hans Schwerte serve as a timely reminder of the nature of this task: to live with a past consisting of fragments that are either imagined nor embellished, or edited according to suitability - but confronted and, if possible, understood. That is challenge enough to a generation with no first-hand knowledge of the period, or indeed to any generation.

BY PHILIPP BLOM

INSIDE	Letters	2	Fashion	9	Secretarial	16
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Arts	10-11	Listings	17-18
	Obituaries	6-7	Money	12-13	Radio	19
	Features	8	Finance	15	Today's TV	20
					FINANCE	

LASIK AVAILABLE - £650
(Consultation £60)

Laser correction for Short-sight, Long-sight & Astigmatism

Our specialist doctors can eliminate the need for glasses using the most advanced lasers with a technique which is called PRK (first performed in 1988) and LASIK for severe short-sight and long-sight. Having performed over 42,500 treatments since 1992, OPTIMAX has established itself as the largest provider of laser treatment in the UK.

"To wake up in the morning and see perfectly is bliss."

Patient Pat Sargent
Songwriter, London

OPTIMAX
LASER EYE CLINIC

£495 per eye
Consultation £20

WHOLELY PAYABLE
after 6 months
25% APR

Phone now for your free information pack
0990-14 33 14 Quote Ref: 195

LONDON • BRISTOL • MANCHESTER • BIRMINGHAM • NEWCASTLE • OLDSOOW

Blackpool follies

Sir: The Prime Minister's warning to his party ("Carping will let in Tories, say Blair", 28 September) and the feelings it might provoke in his more left-wing members, brings to mind Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

As the initial excitement of the animals' victory over Farmer Jones recedes and life on Manor Farm steadily gets worse, Squealer is constantly heard to warn that if the animals don't do what they're told then they will see the return of the dreaded Jones. CLIVE JARVIS
Loughborough, Leicestershire

Sir: Mr Blair tells us it is a choice between the Labour government we have got and the Tories. (Or was it the other way round?) Only two options? Whatever happened to the "third way"? JOHN NICHOLSON
Compton, Greater Manchester
Socialist Alliance
Manchester

Sir: If there was one idea that we might expect to run through Labour Party policy, old and New, it is equality: or if that is too blunt for the New lot, then at least some levelling of the inequalities that grew out of the Thatcher years.

Yet so far we have been offered "super-nurses", "beacon councils" and now "superteachers" (report, 28 September). What these policies have in common, (apart from receiving heavy criticism from all the professional bodies involved,) is they reward nurses, councils and teachers who have "excelled" with money, power and influence. Meanwhile, the 99 per cent of nurses, councils or teachers who did not scramble to the top of the heap are underfunded as usual.

What is "New" about any of this? It seems to me a mere formalisation of the dog-eat-dog attitude of the last administration. Can neither of these two political parties really come up with a better system of reward for public service than offering a tit-bit to the dog who jumps highest?

DAVID GORDON
(Liberal Democrat county councillor)
Hinton St George, Somerset

Sir: I would like to thank the efficient Mr Gordon Brown for his elegant new economic policy. Instead of the tiresome old policies of boom and bust he has calculated that it would be so much cheaper and more certain simply to go straight to bust.

How silly we have been to waste our time on those foolish booms. MIKE BELL
Leeds

Sir: David Aaronovitch's attacks on Liz Davies and Labour Left Briefing are becoming increasingly fantastic (Comment, 29 September).

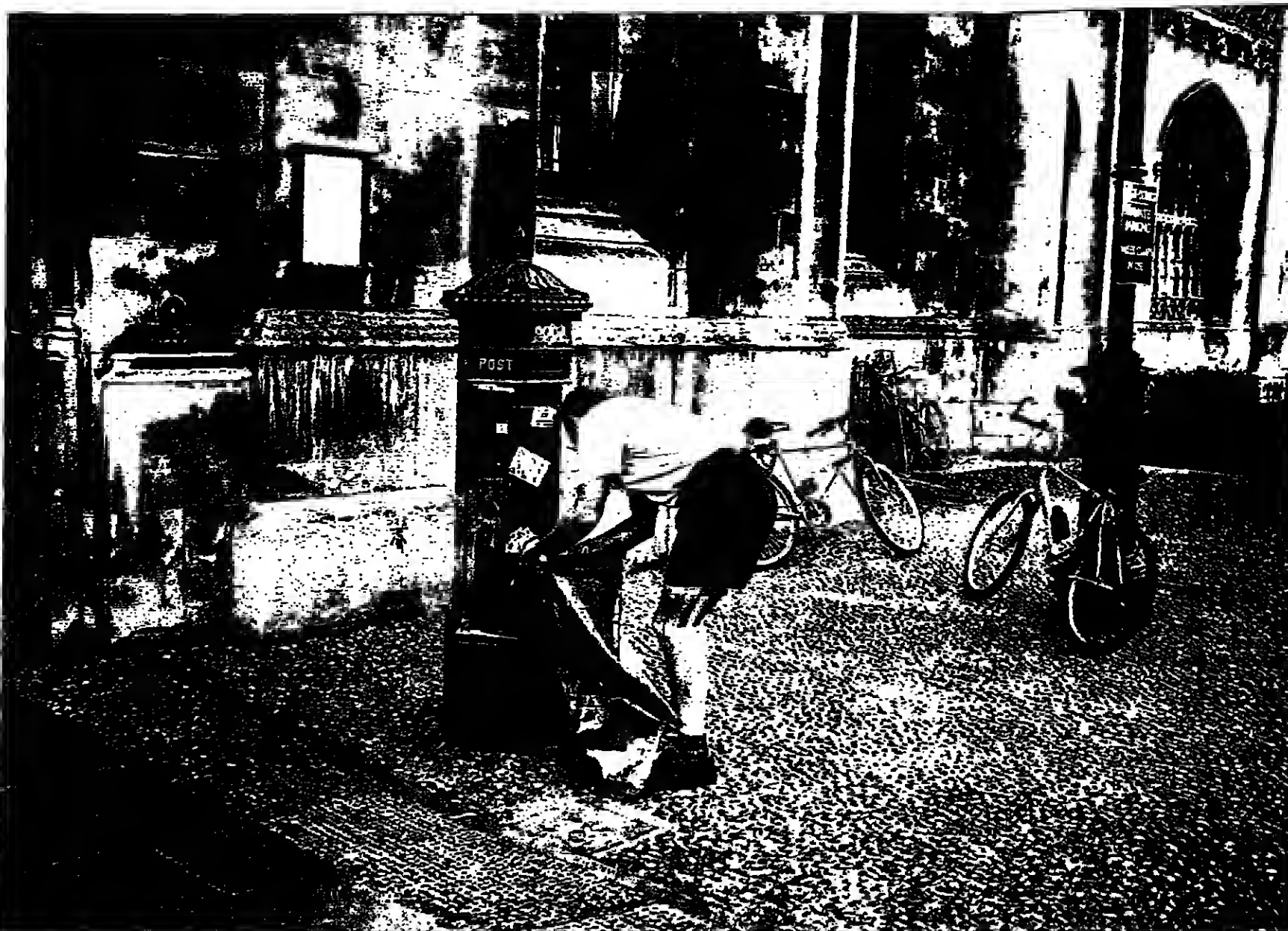
First, he repeatedly quotes out of context in order to distort the meaning of articles in *Briefing*. For example, he tells readers that a piece in the current issue refers to the "armed struggle" in Ireland. The complete sentence reads as follows: "The armed struggle is over and people no longer want a return to the cycle of violence of the Troubles."

Second, he claims members of *Briefing's* editorial board wrote to *The Independent* without declaring themselves as such. In fact, in a letter published on 21 August Tony Dale declared himself a member of the editorial board and went on to point out that he had denounced the IRA's Manchester bombing in unequivocal terms in an article in *Briefing* - one of the many facts Aaronovitch conveniently overlooks in his determination to smear us with broad-brush allegations about "terrorism."

Finally, Aaronovitch claims he does not care about Labour's NEC election. Then why has he devoted two lengthy columns to it? MIKE MARQUESE
Political Correspondent
Labour Left Briefing
London E5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



A postman empties an early Victorian letter-box in Cambridge, in the third of our series on the life of the town before the students return Brian Harris

Sir: Contrary to David Aaronovitch's assertion, I do not believe and have never said that higher rates of income tax should start at "£20,000 or so". As I made clear on BBC television on Monday, I do believe that people earning more than £50,000 should pay more income tax than they do now. LIZ DAVIES
London N1

Jews by choice

Sir: Along with so many others you are over-pessimistic about the future of British Jewry ("We must redefine Jewishness", 28 September).

Sure, there are problems, outmarriage - and note I do not say "intermarriage" - being the major one. I speak only for one branch of Judaism - Reform - but our experience of huge numbers of people coming to educational courses on Jewish history, culture, language - and religion even - does not speak of a community on its way out. Our Movement's, Orthodox's and non-affiliated education seminars are hugging at the seams.

To return to the problem of attrition by outmarriage, however, it is here that we part company from our more traditional co-religionists. Most committed Jewish families - and that includes the huge number whose only contact with their faith is chicken soup, barmitzvahs and Jewish New Year - fear their children marrying outside the faith. It is however an increasing fact of life. A community of 300,000 in a population of 60 million cannot stop it, and we have tried.

The answer is - as far as our Movement is concerned - to turn outmarriage into intermarriage. This is not - yet - a view shared by Orthodox, where conversion is all but impossible. Conversion, while not encouraged vigorously by

Judaism, has a long tradition dating back to Ruth in the Bible and even before. Many other Jewish communities worldwide make it easier for people to join in than is the case in the UK.

We do all we can to retain our young Jews who find non-Jewish partners. Our rabbis train and teach, encouraging the Jewish partner often to return to a faith they had all but abandoned. There is no shame in keeping your child loyal to his or her traditions and welcoming the partner. The alternative route - wringing our hands while eschewing the only way of staunching the flow - leads nowhere but to a small echelon rump, living in isolation in a few parts of London and

Manchester. We will not settle for that.

At my own synagogue many of our most committed and spiritual worshippers are there by choice rather than accident of birth. Our future includes a recognition of the need to match our commitment to traditional values and practices to a dialogue with modernity. BARRY HYMAN
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain
London N3

Mothers hit back

Sir: What is Howard Jacobson's problem ("Get off your chest", Magazine 26 September). I feel personally attacked as a library-

using mother with three children. He talks of being a son - but is he a father? I doubt it.

I was pleased to read that the children's lending section of which he writes is so well used. These mothers should be applauded, not patronised, for observing library etiquette.

As for mothers who breastfeed in a public place - how dare Howard Jacobson act in such a threatening manner. I'm sure he would be furious at being so rudely disturbed during his lunch. Admittedly he would be unlikely to be eating it in a library but this is one of the beauties of breastfeeding. Any place, anywhere - or it should be. To all mothers who are

breastfeeding or considering breastfeeding, please do not be put off by these unfeeling, inconsiderate bullies. You are right, they are not. SARAH OLIVER
Faringdon, Oxfordshire

Sir: Roger Dobson's article, "How to turn nightmares into sleeping beauties" (29 September) infuriated me with its half-baked "medical" theories such as "Night waking and settling problems are the seeds of potential long-term behavioural problems in the child" and "Sleep is a learnt behaviour and many parents fail to teach it properly."

These are the same old tired theories that have been put forward for twenty years. Many parents, myself and my partner included, have moved on from this quasi-Victorian attitude, which hardly credits the baby with having more intelligence than an animal, to another level altogether.

Rather than training our babies to sleep, we tried to respond to the deepest human needs, which babies bring forth within us if we are lucky enough to be parents. As a mother of three, the eldest of whom is now 17, I certainly "failed" to teach my children to sleep when they were babies. I fed them all on demand and each baby slept between us in our big family bed until they were ready to move on to their own beds around about the age of four.

Nights were broken, but strangely enough this was not the signal of long-term behavioural problems - in fact quite the reverse. The needy babies have developed into interesting and kind young men who are both independent and affectionate. If you have children, you have to be prepared to put in night duty for the first few years in order to reap huge benefits later. JEEANE MARKHAM
London NW5

IN BRIEF

will care to promote wider use of Esperanto as a neutral common language? HILARY S CHAPMAN
Conwy, Gwynedd

Sir: We occasionally get misdelivered letters, intended for another house in our village in Dorset. Today, however the Royal Mail excelled themselves by delivering a letter I had addressed myself, to someone in a village three miles away. There was no indication as to the sender on the envelope. Homing instinct or strange coincidence? JONATHAN HAIGH
Dorchester

Sir: I could not help but be shocked by the revelations of Uri Geller concerning his erstwhile mode of transport, the Peugeot 404. (Motoring, 26 September).

Shocked, not because his car proved to be less than reliable, but rather that he completely

failed to predict that this would be the case! For me, nothing can ever again be certain. I don't even think I'll be writing to Santa this year. ALLAN PYM
Ebbw Vale, Gwent

Sir: At the Commonwealth Games we had the pleasure of hearing the English national anthem on a number of occasions. "Land of Hope and Glory" has a stirring tune, and its performance reminds us that the appropriate time to hear "God Save the Queen" is when a British team is involved, representing Great Britain, not just England.

Can we now please get rid of the nonsense of the wrong anthem being heard when English football and rugby teams play other nations? When Edward Elgar's splendid tune is heard at the last night of the Proms all sing along with great fervour. It can be done at Wembley and Twickenham too. C R POLLARD
Billingham, Cleveland

Trolley pirates in the supermarket aisles of Croydon

A most extraordinary trial is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a Mrs Wishart is suing a Mrs Willoughby for the theft of her supermarket trolley. Of course, trolleys belong to the supermarket, not to private individuals, but what Mrs Wishart is getting at is that... well, perhaps a verbatim extract from the trial will give you a better idea.

Counsel: Now, Mrs Wishart, you were wheeling a trolley round the SpenkKwik superstore in Croydon on 19 July...
Wishart: I was.
Counsel: Can you describe this trolley?
Wishart: Yes. It was exactly the same as any SpenkKwik trolley.
Counsel: Exactly the same?
Wishart: Yes. When you pushed it,

it went sideways, made a horrible squeak and hit oncoming trolleys. Also, the wheel rubbed so that it was hard to push.

Counsel: I see. Could you describe the contents of this trolley?
Wishart: I would think it was about 90 per cent steel, 5 per cent plastic trimmings and 5 per cent rubber from the wheels.

Counsel: I was really thinking of the contents chosen by you...
Wishart: Ah. The shopping which I had amassed included a packet of salmon, some coriander, some lemons and a bottle of vermouth. I also had some fresh yeast and some bread flour.
Counsel: And this is the trolley which you claim Mrs Willoughby stole from you?
Wishart: Claim? I saw her do it!
Counsel: Can you think of any rea-

son she might have taken a trolley?
Wishart: Certainly.
Counsel: You think she might have wanted to melt it down for its iron and plastic content?
Wishart: Certainly not. There is no need to be heavily sarcastic. She would have taken it for its temporary contents. My shopping.

Counsel: Well, of course, even if she had, the contents of the trolley did not strictly speaking belong to you. You had not yet paid for them.
Wishart: That is ridiculous hair-splitting. They were mine although not yet paid for. The electricity and gas I use in my house is mine, though I have not yet paid for it.
Counsel: Then why do you think Mrs Willoughby took your trolley?
Can you think of a reason?
Wishart: Certainly. Half a dozen.
Counsel: One will do.



MILES KINGSTON

Like any SpenkKwik trolley, it went sideways, made a horrible squeak and hit oncoming trolleys

Wishart: She liked the unusual look of my selection of groceries and decided to take it, rather than go

round collecting everything herself. She was guilty of theft of copyright! Counsel: Try another reason.
Wishart: She realised I had taken the last bag of coriander on display and decided to nick mine.

Counsel: Try another.
Wishart: She knew that it sometimes takes ages and ages queuing at the bakery counter to get fresh yeast, and decided to nick mine.

Counsel: Try another.
Wishart: Is there any reason for badgering the witness in this way? After all, you said one reason would do, and now you are asking her for a fourth...

Counsel: Yes, my Lord. I am trying to upset her and get her all confused, after which I can make emotional mienmeat of her.
Judge: Excellent!
Counsel: Also, she said she could

provide half a dozen reasons, my Lord. I think I should hold her to her word.

Judge: Quite right, too. Carry on, Counsel: Mrs Wishart, can you think of a fourth reason why she might have taken your trolley?

Wishart: Yes. Supermarkets like to reorganise the placing of their shelves from time to time so that regular customers can no longer find produce in the expected place. Such a reorganisation had recently taken place at the Croydon SpenkKwik, and it is quite possible that Mrs Willoughby had spent an hour searching for coriander or lemons, had seen mine, and decided to nick it.

Counsel: Fine. And your fifth reason?
Judge: Look, wouldn't it be simpler

to ask Mrs Willoughby why she took the trolley?
Counsel: And so I will in due course, my Lord, but I think Mrs Wishart should complete her payment at the legal check-out first, so to speak.

Judge: Very nicely put.
Counsel: So, Mrs Wishart, a fifth reason?

Wishart: It is quite possible that Mrs Willoughby is one of these animal rights activists and disapproves of salmon farming. She may have thought my purchase of salmon was farmed, and was determined to liberate it.
Counsel: How can you liberate a piece of dead salmon?
Wishart: Don't ask me. Ask Mrs Willoughby.

The case continues.

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Mr Blair talks tough, but avoids the hard choices

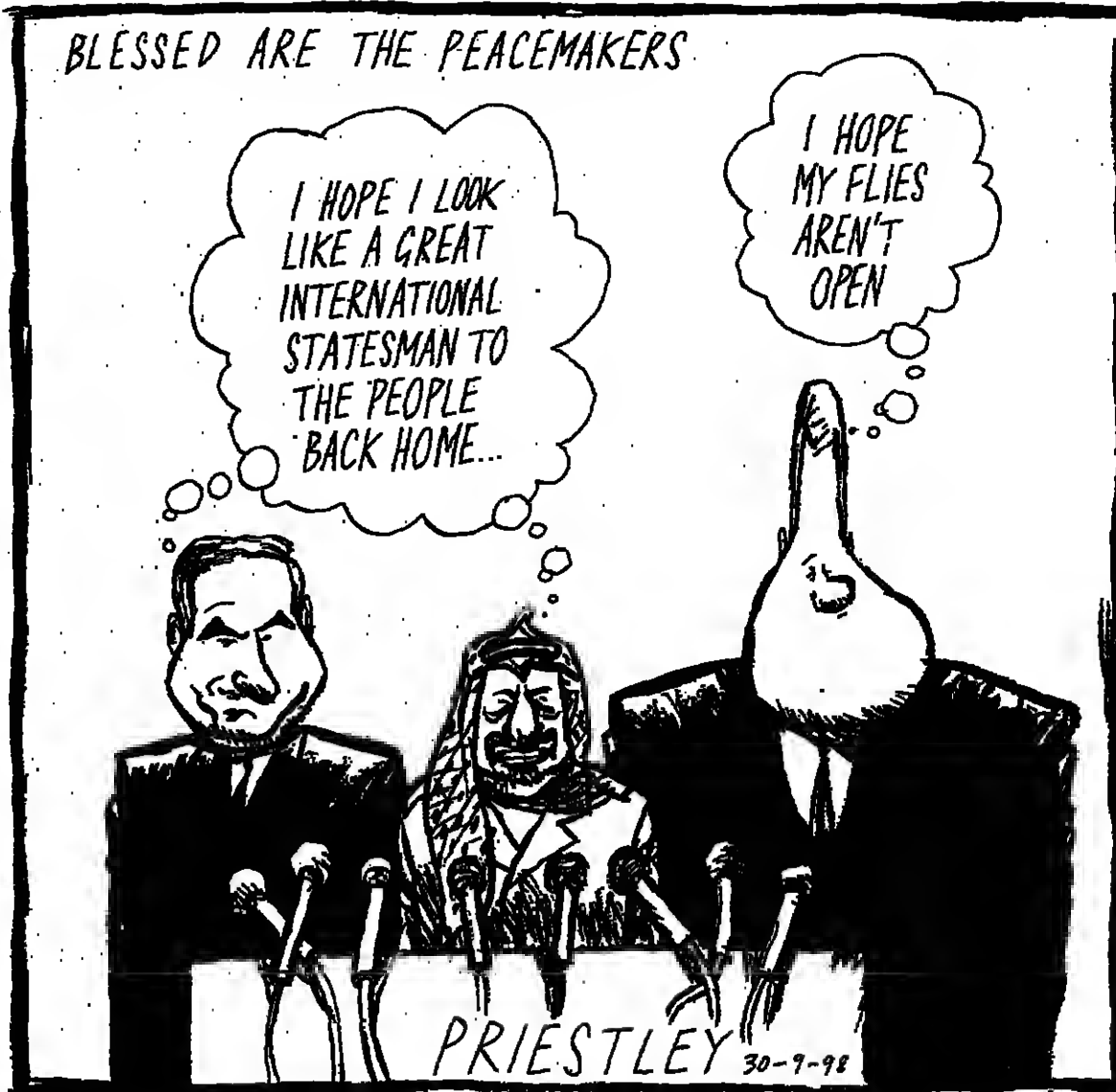
THE LABOUR Government started its Blackpool conference on the theme of tough love and Tony Blair kept it tough in his speech yesterday. Absent was any sign of the easing of pressure some party delegates had hoped for after the harsh messages of the "Iron" Chancellor Gordon Brown and the Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson.

Just the opposite. Instead of appealing to the party, its leader seemed to go out of his way to define the difference between the old and the new, between the Labour of opposition and the Labour in government. His government, he argued almost to the point of ramming it down delegates' throats, was doing what the Tories should have done on crime, welfare, interest rates and defence – only the Tories didn't have the courage.

It was an uncompromising message, intended to convey the impression that Mr Blair cannot be deterred from his quest to modernise Britain (and now Europe, and tomorrow the world). In Blairville, there is no alternative – and the Prime Minister left the clear impression that he is now confident enough to make enemies, be they complaining manufacturers, bolshie farmers, independent-minded Scots, wingeing teachers. But it's hard to argue with many of his targets. If welfare is ever to be brought under control, there must be more efficient means of directing it to those most in need. If educational standards are to be improved, bad headmasters will have to be sacked, just as good headmasters must be given competitive salaries. There were, however, signs that he is still holding back on some of the most radical moves. Power-sharing with the Lib Dems and attempting to build a centre-left force that would last a generation has been put aside – postponed, as his spokesmen say, in the better interests of wrapping it up with reform of the House of Lords – until after the next election.

Then there was Europe, the area where he sounded most tentative (but also most interesting). All the logic of Blair and Brown's position is that we should join the euro, and sooner rather than later. If England and Scotland are better for being in Britain, then Britain, in terms of his vision of community, is better for being part of the European monetary system. Blair seemed to believe that himself when delivering that part of his speech. Yet, disappointingly, he clearly felt unable to say it directly.

That was one disappointment. There were others as well, mostly sins of omission. There was no mention at all of tax (reform, let alone redistribution); no real appreciation of the seriousness of the management



problems facing the Health Service; little about the questions of regulating financial flows, attacking monopolies, ensuring better service from the utilities, forcing the pace of corporation reform – all those detailed questions that must concern the management of economics today.

That, at heart, remains the worry about this man who has, unsurprisingly, become a model for modern politicians through Europe and even Japan. When he talks of community and compassion, even that politically dangerous concept of "family values", with a carefully worded warning to the press not to take advantage of it to poke into politicians' lives (slim chance), it is not a

gesture to the values of Labour. He really believes it, but there is still something curiously ill-defined about the philosophy behind his values. That matters in the future and grappling with the possibility of recession, when public spending shoots up and incomes fall.

That is the hard business of government and the hardness of prime ministers in dealing with it. So we welcome the uncompromising tone and the drive for reform, but worry still that the future is quite as certain as Tony sees it.

Baseless optimism for the Middle East

IT IS hard to see why headlines on Palestinian-Israeli relations have suddenly burst into a chorus of hope. All that has been agreed by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, is that they will meet again in a couple of weeks. Even according to the most optimistic observers, any agreement reached in Washington in mid-October will only cover Israeli withdrawal from a further 13 per cent of occupied Palestinian territory.

If negotiations reach that stage, further obstacles will present themselves. Israel will have to decide whether it recognises a sovereign state called Palestine; the Palestinians will need to consider whether they insist on East Jerusalem being part of that state. It is a mark of how long it is since the last progress made under the Oslo peace accords – now deadlocked for almost 18 months – that anyone is becoming excited over "agreements" which do not even approach these problems.

The main players have problems with their own supporters. The fringe parties that sustain Mr Netanyahu seem unlikely to accept any deal, and Mr Arafat, for his part, has met Israeli demands so many times that his credibility among radical Palestinians has collapsed. It is farcical for Israel to demand security guarantees that, due to their own refusal to compromise, Mr Arafat is in no position to give.

The sudden upsurge in hopeful comment seems to owe much to the Clinton administration's media skills, pressed into service to divert attention from its domestic problems. We should not be taken in by this, nor by Mr Netanyahu's desperation to still international criticism. Progress is to be welcomed, but the conflict cannot be resolved by gestures from those with neither the power nor the will to reach a real agreement.

History in briefs

A RASH of time-capsules is breaking out across the world. The Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, is burying one. And a French satellite is being launched that will send back pictures of the Earth after 50 years. The sad thing is that we do not seem to have very much to say. Islington's capsule will contain nothing but branded goods, including the definitive statement of our age: photographs of models wearing Marks & Spencer underwear. Our descendants may look on us with pity, rather than understanding.

Old Labour is alive, well, and busy giving New Labour a kicking

RUMOURS OF the death of the Labour Party conference have turned out to be premature. This week's elections and debates have shown it to be very much alive and kicking. The election of the centre-left Grassroots Alliance candidates to four out of six constituency places on the national executive, and the robust performance of trade union leaders such as John Edmonds and Rodney Bickerstaffe in the discussion of economic policy, showed that the party conference remains a real forum of debate.

Earlier in the year, with the cash for access scandal, we had a foretaste of what would fill the vacuum if ordinary party members and trade unionists were denied their say in the Labour party's policy-making process. Without the counter-weight of the Labour Party's democracy, the wholly unaccountable forces of big business would have almost total sway over the channels of access to ministers. Indications of what would replace democratic elections and conference votes, if the control freaks had their way, are all over Blackpool this week. Delegates' badges advertise Somerset, and the Conference Guide is full of glossy ads for the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance, British Nuclear Fuels and Nestlé, while other companies lay on lavish refreshments to lure delegates to fringe events that are devoted to boosting their firm's profit line.

The big vote for the Grassroots Alliance slate in the NEC elections was by no means simply a vote for the left. On its own, as the 31 per cent vote for Socialist Campaign Group candidates in 1994, 1995 and 1996 showed, the left represents little more than a third of the party membership. Last year,

faced with Peter Mandelson's first bid for elected office within the party, the left was joined by many from the centre and old Labour right, so that candidates opposed by the establishment received 39 per cent of the vote.

In the subsequent year, this process developed further to produce a real coalition of the left, the radical democrats and Hattersleyites of Labour Reform and soft-left readers of *Tribune*, in the Grassroots Alliance. People such as Andy Howell, chair of Labour Reform, argued that socialist values could be realised only via radical democratisation, while the left stressed that the free market alone would never deliver social justice. The result was convergence in an alliance whose views tallied with the concerns of most party members.

This is no cause for triumphalism. The election was not a victory for Labour Briefing or any other grouping. It was a victory for the decent party members who want to keep our party Labour. The efforts of Neil Kinnock and David Aaronovitch to smear the candidates as far-left Trotskyists and distort the slate's political views simply did not wash with the ordinary members who know better. In fact, the Grassroots Alliance offended the secularists on the left as much as it did some of the party establishment. People such as the far-left Socialist Organisation urged people not to vote for the Grassroots Alliance slate because it did not meet their misguided standards of ideological purity.

That is why people who have traditionally been as far apart on the political spectrum as myself and Roy Hattersley were delighted by the results and hope very much that the

alliance will go from strength to strength as a model of political pluralism.

The big issue now is how the leadership will respond to what has happened. Two approaches are emerging. The Millbank fundamentalists say the vote of the party membership is irrelevant. They relish the idea of an eternal holy war against any deviation from the true faith. Like so many religious fanatics, they seem driven by an inability to construct proper human relationships, to find another outlet for their energies. This group has already significantly discredited itself. London delegates were incensed to learn that regional officials were sitting around drawing up ham-fisted psychological portraits to determine who should and shouldn't speak at conference. Millbank tried to kill the story by claiming they had sacked someone, but we have yet to learn whether disciplinary



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Regional officials drew up ham-fisted psychological portraits as to who should speak at conference

action was directed against those who wrote the reports or the person who leaked it!

David Aaronovitch's piece in yesterday's *Independent* typifies this tendency to permanent conflict. Having wasted most of his early years in pointless factional wars inside the Communist Party, he suggests the Labour Party should adopt a similar approach to dissent. Whatever he may think, most voters will have recognised that issues such as interest rates, retaining public ownership of the Post Office and the impact of the pound's exchange rate on manufacturing industry are worth discussing in an open way.

Those whose factories are threatened by closure or who dread the monthly mortgage bill will have been delighted to see that attempts to turn the conference into a simple rubber stamp for policies made elsewhere seem to have failed. Of course, it would have been better if, at the end of the discussion, there had been a vote, because it undoubtedly would have resulted in support for lower interest rates and an exchange rate at which the British economy is able to compete. That may not yet be the view of Gordon Brown or the Bank of England Governor, Edie George, but the TUC, the CBI and most of the Labour Party conference delegates think differently.

It is simply not true that the Treasury's orthodoxy is the only possible economic policy. Ten years ago, in *Livingstone's Labour*, I said that Labour should become the party of low inflation and sound money. I argued against endless devaluations as a way forward because they are manifestations of the problems in the UK

economy, not a cure for them. But that does not mean we should try to hang on to an over-valued pound when it is destroying our manufacturing industry. It means that interest rates and the exchange rate should be set at levels that encourage investment. Progressive taxation is necessary not as revenge against the rich, but to ensure that lower interest rates don't stoke up inflation, and to divert resources from the present record levels of company dividend payments into productive investment. That is vital, because underlying every other problem and the cause of this country's century long economic decline is that we invest a far lower share of our economy than do our competitors in Europe or Asia.

You can agree or disagree with these views, but probably most of the Labour movement now agrees that they are a practical alternative to the risk of a deeply damaging recession.

A second section of the leadership has taken a different approach to what has happened this week. They recognise that, as the only section of the NEC elected by secret ballot of the entire membership, the constituency section election is the best possible barometer of what party members think. Tom Sawyer warned in a newspaper interview this week: "There is a perception of a class of people around the top of the Labour Party who are not elected, who do not account to anybody and who have enormous influence over the Government. That is a perception. I am not saying it is true. The message has got to be that the most important people at Blackpool are the Labour party delegates."

On this matter, at least, Tom is right.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want to be seen as beautiful because of my disability, not in spite of it."
Aimee Mullins,
fashion model

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A man who does not lose his reason over certain things has none to lose."
Gottfried Ephraim Lessing,
German dramatist



GET THE PROTECTION OF A FREE PRE-WINTER CAR CHECK

The AA fixes more cars than anyone else. But it can also help prevent you from breaking down in the first place. That's why we're offering personal members the reassurance of booking a free pre-winter car check at either 600 Kwik-Fix centres, over 400 ATS centres or 29 AA workshops across the country. By checking the essentials, your car will be better prepared to face the winter months. To qualify, join by 31st October 1998.

*Checks are available from 1st October to 14th November 1998. This offer also applies to existing personal members.

TO OUR MEMBERS WE'RE THE 4th EMERGENCY SERVICE

TO JOIN OR RENEW CALL FREE 0800 444 999 EXT 6003

THIS HURRICANE is serious business. Even if Tampa Bay is spared a direct hit, Georges is expected to bring strong winds, heavy rains, flooding and sporadic tornadoes across a wide swath. It is not an experience for thrill-seekers or those who cannot persevere for days without the conveniences of modern living. Staying informed and prepared is a price we must pay to live on Florida's coast. The greatest danger we face is our own complacency. St Petersburg Times, Florida

FOR THE Caribbean survivors, things will likely get worse before they get better. The storm left at least 100,000 Dominicans homeless – more than 10 times the number that government shelters can accommodate. They'd better rebuild fast. Meteorologists at the US Hurricane Center in Miami have detected three other hurricanes swirling simultaneously in the Atlantic. Though they were not expected to reach land, they underscored one harrowing truth: the

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Comment on the devastation wrought by Hurricane Georges



hurricane season still has two months to go. *Newsweek*

A SENSE of dread hung over New Orleans as the city braced

itself for the arrival of Hurricane Georges. Tens of thousands of residents were fleeing along clogged roads. The escape routes were painfully few. In every part of the city there

was a palpable tension and a nervousness. By nightfall, the city had tucked itself in, locked its doors and huddled to await the storm. *New Orleans Times Picayune*

GEORGES' WESTERLY route caused more damage in Cuba than expected and, because it kept the storm over land longer, helped South Florida. Fidel Castro declared before the storm hit that because of the US economic embargo, Cuba would not accept storm

aid from the States. That's just one more example of how US-Cuba relations have degenerated to the point of mutual lunacy. Georges was expected to grow in intensity and make another landfall, perhaps today. A hurricane's path is outside of human control. The response to a hurricane's devastation isn't those who were spared this time – should help Georges' victims here and in the Caribbean. We were lucky. Now we can be generous. *Palm Beach Post*

PANDORA

FRIENDS OF Peter Mandelson have spoken of his hilarious wit, and Pandora can now share a charming example of same. On Monday, Mandelson was waiting to appear on a Channel 4 television feed, live from Blackpool, when the TV folk realised they were short of one make-up artist. Instead, they drafted in a Talk Radio producer, Jo Phillips, who was based in the next studio, to help brighten Mandy's features. When Phillips entered the room, Mandy quipped: "Do you want to touch me up?"

MONDAY EVENING'S party for Nigella Lawson's new cookbook *How To Eat*, held in London's new One Aldwych hotel, had a guest list that could be published as a small book entitled *The Chattering Classes*. Those in attendance included Salman Rushdie, Alan Yentob, Sir Robin Day, Martin Amis, Alexandra Shulman, Lord Saatchi, Piers Paul Read, Matthew Evans, Michael Heath, the author's father Nigel, her brother Dominic, and many others. However, the one guest whose presence was truly an honour was that of Nigella's husband, John Diamond. Just 10 days out of hospital after his second major cancer operation, John glowed with pride for his beautiful and talented wife. It was certainly the book party of the year - and produced a candidate for remark of the year: New Labour's favourite PR woman, Julia Hobsbawm, eight months pregnant and looking lovely - but impatient - was asked why she wasn't in Blackpool. Patting her hump, she declared, "To hell with Labour. I just want labour."

HAVING ABANDONED his former girlfriend and child, and gushed out his feelings for the late Diana, Princess of Wales in his autobiography, the former England rugby captain Will Carling's national popularity has probably never been more desperate. What better time, then, to launch a 19-city UK lecture tour, in which Carling promises to describe "his spectacular career, both on and off the field". However, according to a spokeswoman for the tour promoters Huti Russell: "The question and answer session may prove... er..."



WILL THE reclusive, camera-shy director Stanley Kubrick (pictured) make a rare public excursion this week and visit the Donmar Warehouse to watch Nicole Kidman's critically acclaimed performance in *The Blue Room*? That's the suggestion of *Variety* columnist Army Archerd, whose interview with Nicole appeared yesterday. She and husband Tom Cruise have spent several years working for perfectionist Kubrick in his forthcoming film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, which the director has promised to show to its stars for the first time next month. "We've been here so long, the children speak with British accents," Kidman said. However, since yesterday's *Variety* story, it must be seen whether Kubrick, who zealously guards his privacy and insists that his employees sign rigid secrecy agreements, will actually show up.

Pretentiousness? It's poetic licence



JOHN WALSH

Without pretension there would be no fine art, no poetry, no architecture, no advertising slogans...

A ROW has broken out in the world of fine wines, a real corker, a row with a spectacular nose, a firm attack and (let's hope) a long finish. Two of the nation's top oenologists are currently at each other's throats. One is Michael Broadbent, the upright, old-fashioned, bicycle-riding director of Christie's fine wine department; the other is Serena Sutcliffe, the aquiline, tremulous, polyglot supreme of Sotheby's international wine department.

Naturally you expect a certain professional rivalry between the opposite numbers of such competitive organisations. But, in a BBC TV documentary, *Vintner's Tales*, presented by James Robinson and to be screened next week, Mr Broadbent goes a little far. Asked why he never goes to the same wine tastings as Ms Sutcliffe, he replies: "Really, I find her haughty and rather nose-in-the-air. The word, if you really want the word, is 'pretentious'."

Pretentious, eh? Of all the words you might expect a wine expert to use in condemnation of another wine expert, "pretentious" is the last. For pretentiousness comes with the territory. It's a requirement

of the job. An unpretentious wine connoisseur would be as much use as a surreptitious town crier. Examples of Ms Sutcliffe can point to some spectacular feats of adjectival fireworks in her attempts to encapsulate the glory of crushed grapes. She is fond of words such as *monumental, fabulous, incandescent, mythical, eternal, immense, archetypal, awe-inspiring, majestic* and "grandiose, in the

French sense" when describing upmarket drinks.

In the last year's auction of Andrew Lloyd Webber's wine collection, she identified the flavours of "jammy wonder", "glorious toast of time", "hawthorn and honey" and "the Cairo spice bazaar". In a number of expensive *premiers crus* classed clarets, to her phenomenal, hair-trigger sensory arsenal, the 1989 Domaine de la Romanée Conti Burgundy was "rich coffee and undergrowth on the nose, cocoa on the palate".

You may, like Mr Broadbent, find this stuff hard to take. You may decide, like him, that the word... is "pretentious". And I would reply: So what? What's wrong with being pretentious?

What, for example, is the alternative to Ms Sutcliffe's synaesthetic deductions? To say (as Mr Broadbent once said of a supermarket *vin ordinaire*) that it's "an ordinary, straightforward red colour and smells vaguely of wine"? Give me Ms Sutcliffe any day. To those who pool-pool E.M. Forster's reading of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as an uprising of goblins against their

Creator, I'd say it represents a more coherent response to the music than saying you like the tunes. To people who laugh at the Millennium Dome as not just over-priced but "pretentious", I'd say that's precisely why I love it - because it combines with such insouciance the qualities of biblical crown of thorns, royal crown and crown roast of lamb.

"Pretentious" is a word we hurt too readily at human attempts to see transcendent things in the everyday. If my neighbour claims to detect the odour of Kirov ballet tights in a bottle of Chilean merlot, if my daughter sees the shadow of mortality in a melting ice-cream, or if I claim that a three-line hallway by Lao-tzu is the finest expression of love in the history of poetry, we may all be guilty of pretension - but at least we tried. For the enemies of pretension are far worse than its exponents. We detect their claims to a sensitivity that's greater than our own. We think they're just pretending a response. They're taking a rapture we don't (or can't) share. They see stars where we see mud. They are

either lucky bastards or they're posey charlatans. Let's agree it must be the latter.

But it's the courting of pretension that makes life worthwhile. If we like joy or pain or sorrow and look for ourselves as we like without this dull, prosaic condemnation. We may be imprecise or overly colourful, we may make idiots of ourselves, but at least we expressed it, whether the result was an over-excited tasting note or Chartres Cathedral.

For without the occasional foray into grandiosity (in the English sense), affection or even vanity, life would be ghastly. Without pretension there would be no fine art, no poetry, no architecture, no advertising slogans, no religion, no Zen, no couture fashion, no speeches, no metaphors, hardly any pop lyrics, no satire. The world would be a place of cold sense, precise description, modest utterance, a grim calibration of external facts, a sterile dystopia of functional buildings and sensible clothing. And all the wine would taste just of wine.

Tony makes them feel like dancing, but he frightens me



ANNE MCELVOY

Blair is unashamed to be called authoritarian in pursuit of goals he knows most voters share

THE MUSICAL build-up in Blackpool had changed from the usual feel-good disco stomp to the soaring, sonorous harmonies of an African choir. Not a note, verbal or musical, is struck in the Winter Gardens without precise calculation of its effect on our spirits. The hallowed strains were an invitation to a mood of sober reflection: this time, the Prime Minister was saying, it is time to get serious.

Having roughed up his own party, he is now setting out on the really difficult bit: roughing up the rest of us. New Labour has been accused of being disproportionately tough on the poor and workless. Now it is the turn of others, less accustomed to the smack of firm government, to be the intended recipients of Mr Blair's pep talk. Business was politely and firmly told to stop moaning about the high pound and attend to its low productivity. Teachers were scolded for insufficient enthusiasm about the Government's standards drive. Doctors and managers, the NHS elite, are to be tested on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the drugs and treatments they prescribe. Here was an extraordinary forthright attack on the complacency of the public sector middle classes, protected heretofore by the carefully-tended perception that they "do a wonderful job" and that it is somehow mean-minded to ask whether this is actually true in all cases.

Here was a speech of coded warnings of toughness on just about every front - in the economy, in education, towards the criminally inclined and the trade unions. His tone towards the last two was pretty much identically menacing. If the message from the TUC conference and the Left's advances was "Be Afraid", Mr Blair was using Blackpool to tell us that he wasn't.

For a Prime Minister whose stock-in-trade until recently was ease and accessibility, he is becoming a wee bit scary. The applause before the end of sentences seemed to me a sign that the audience is slightly nervous of him. Warmth has been replaced by respect.

Still, it is all in a good cause. From zero-tolerance in high crime areas, to closing bad schools and sacking their heads, a more discriminating system of rewards for those in the public sector to reflect performance and a widening of the role of health visitors throughout the childhood years and into adolescence: the shrewd calculation of Mr Blair's list of social improvements is that it uses the power of the state for social purposes most people will find welcome.

He has perfected the knack of selling the same set of policies twice with different labels to different audiences and yesterday's speech will be presented to the centre-left as putting substance on the commitment to widen "social inclusion". At the same time, the tent was audaciously pitched on

traditionally Conservative turf with an autumn Green Paper intended to shore up the fractious and fragmented British family.

The old Tory charge was that Labour was the provisional wing of the bossy state, unfailingly eager to get its size nine social-worker boot through the front door of ordinary people, disturb the peace of the hearth and run their lives for them. But who is seriously going to object to these policies? Things cannot go on as they are. Ask people who live in crime-ridden estates or whose children are condemned to schools in which teachers have been reduced to mere agents of social control - and not particularly effective ones at that.

Mr Blair has absorbed the admonishments of Conservative critics. To their horror, he is acting tough on the very things they expect Labour governments to be soft on. What will they mean about now?

But there are some risks inherent in such a centralised approach to social ills as the one Mr Blair laid out yesterday. The implementation of Zero Tolerance must not be allowed to become a shield behind which over-zealous, sluggish or downright racist policemen can shelter. The line between strict and harsh policing is difficult enough to observe under existing conditions of high pressure, often compounded by racial tension between communities and the police. It will become even more difficult when forces are being given central orders to redouble their efforts in target areas, which are, by definition, tense and troubled.

At the same time as Mr Blair is inviting Chief Constables to preside over a more energetic clampdown on crime, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is preparing an assault on the ingrained culture of unaccountability in some police forces and the reluctance of good members of the



The Blairs meet delegates after his speech Brian Harris

force to inform on colleagues who bend or break the rules.

It is not an outright contradiction. But in order to avoid accusations that Mr Blair's preferred crime reduction strategy will not mean an uncritical embrace of heavy tactics in troubled spots, Mr Straw will have to ensure that his determination to hasten reform of police management keeps pace with the desire to achieve a down turn in street crime.

The return to welfare reform in a bill in the autumn is a raspberry to those who thought it was all over when Frank Field quit office. One of the odder political side-shows has been right wing welfare state reformers heaping uncritical praise on Mr Field, who has just shown robustly Old Labour credentials by demanding a 50 per cent tax for high earners.

From its early mishaps and mis-handlings of welfare reform, the Government has learned to proceed more incrementally and to tackle welfare problems one-by-one, instead of launching a Jihad whose goals appear to me to be perfectly

right, but which ran into trouble on so many fronts that it was in danger of derailing the entire project. So the autumn will see a review of disability benefits - the most fatally elastic part of the social security budget, but also one of the most sensitive and with a well-organised and vociferous lobby defending to status quo. Mr Blair, we see again, is not shy of a fight.

He spoke yesterday as a Prime Minister unashamed to be called authoritarian in pursuit of goals he knows that the majority of voters share and with a determination he knows that they relish. But his centralising tendencies are becoming unignorable and at odds with other New Labour commitments to spread more decision-making away from Westminster. From next year, when the elections to Scotland's parliament prepare the way for the first real alternative power centre to Westminster, that will have to change. Yesterday, we saw a man grown so confident in handling power that he will find giving it up a lot more difficult than he imagines.

THE INDEPENDENT
ENERGY SAVING LIGHT BULBS
PACK OF FOUR £19.95 INC P&P

These highly efficient, energy-saving light bulbs will cut your running costs by around 80% without any loss in comfort or safety by using just 20% of the electricity of a normal light bulb. An 11-watt 'energy saver' for example, gives the equivalent light of a normal 60-watt bulb, a 15-watt equals 75 watts and a 20 watt is the same as 100 watts.

Fully guaranteed for a whole year under normal use, you start to save money just as soon as you replace one of your normal filament bulbs. Simply replace and watch your meter slow down! These bayonet-fitting energy saver bulbs are available in packs of four of the same wattage for only £19.95 - that's just £4.98 each including delivery.

Newspaper Publishing PLC Registered in England No. 190897

HOW TO ORDER (for UK orders only)

Fill in the coupon quoting your ACCESS/VISA card number, or send with cheque or postal order, NO CASH, to: THE INDEPENDENT ENERGY SAVING BULB OFFER, TRUEBELL HOUSE, LOMBARD ROAD, LONDON SW19 3TZ. Or call the CREDIT CARD ORDER HOTLINE ON 0181 540 9696. ACCESS/VISA welcome. Please quote ref: IND780. Allow 28 days for delivery. Subject to availability. If you are not fully satisfied return within 7 days for a full refund.

I enclose a crossed cheque/PO for £ (address on back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING IND780 or debit my Access/VISA account by this amount. My card number is:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Post Code _____

Send to: THE INDEPENDENT ENERGY SAVING BULB OFFER, Truebell House, Lombard Road, London SW19 3TZ.

Please tick this box if you do not wish to be contacted by mail for other offers or to receive our newsletter.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Phone tick this box if you do not wish to be contacted by phone for other offers or to receive our newsletter.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Signature _____

Exp. Date _____

We can be God's beacon of hope to all

I HAVE in recent times been drawn to a lovely phrase used by St Paul in the Letter to the Galatians. He is speaking about the coming of Christ and all that went before in preparation for this momentous event, and the phrase is, "in the fullness of time" - the incarnation did not happen too soon or too late, but at just the right time, when everything was in place.

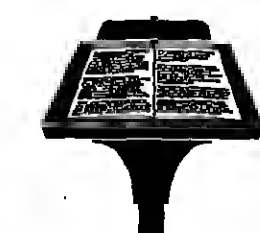
And that phrase is apt, to describe what happened in South Africa. Certain things, factors and people had to be in place - the ingredients, the mix, had to be just right for the alchemy to work.

Our country rejected the call for a blanket amnesty, because this would be succumbing to a desire for amnesia, and that would not have helped to heal the pains inflicted by the horrors of the past. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it. It comes back nightmarishly. The English and Afrikaners in South Africa are both white, and appear to get on amicably, but everyone knows that is all illusory. Whenever something happens to disturb the calm, then the tension, and anger, and bitterness,

certainly in the Afrikaners, come to the surface. The reason is that these two race groups have never faced up to what happened during the Anglo-Boer War, when thousands of Boer women and children were put into concentration camps. Recently, on a trip to the Doves Economic Forum, I drove with a young Afrikaner from Zurich. He told me that whenever his grandmother told him what had happened to her, then he was ready to fight the Anglo-Boer War all over again.

Amnesia was unacceptable also because it really was victimising the victims a second time, by effectively denying that they had suffered a violation of their rights.

Have we had any truth? We wish, obviously, that we could have uncovered much more. But what we have had is a very great deal more than we could have imagined. Now we know what happened to Steve Biko, to the Cradock Four, the Peppo Three. Now we know of the previous government's chemical and biological warfare programme, which I have described as the most diabolical thing that has come before the Truth and Reconciliation



PODIUM

DESMOND TUTU
From the Independent
Newspapers Lecture by
the former Archbishop
of Cape Town, at Trinity
College, Dublin

Commission. Some of those who were involved with it have alleged that it had sinister programmes, such as those to reduce the fertility rate of black women, and to find germs that would target only black people, and they were producing anthrax and cholera which they said they would use on people outside South Africa, as if that made it more moral.

It is alleged that they wanted to poison Nelson Mandela,

so that his brain would have been affected in prison, and that he would not survive too long after his release. It boggles the mind, and one sighs with relief that they did not succeed. Imagine what would have happened to stability and reconciliation in South Africa.

They were involved in the production of several tons of Mandrax, and one wonders whether the scourge of drug trafficking that has afflicted especially black areas may not, in part, be due to this nefarious programme. In some respects there was a 007 air about it, with various gadgets for poisoning opponents. Even if they had denied most of these allegations, we know one person they did try to poison who lived to tell the tale - Dr Frank Chikane, now Director General in Dr Thabo Mbeki's office.

The question is, how many such attempts were made and how many died? It reminds me so much of the pictures I saw of Dachau, of white-coated German scientists performing experiments on fellow human beings. Yes, we have found enough to paint a coherent picture of the past and the kind of atmosphere that

prevailed which made it possible for the ghastly atrocities to take place.

We were trying to find the truth, not for prosecuting, but to try to heal a traumatised people, and in order to ensure that such things would not happen again. We were accused of being soft on Mrs Winnie Mandela, and with Mr P.W. Botha. But nobody else went through an 11-day grilling such as that of Mrs Mandela and we got her, even if reluctantly, to say "sorry", perhaps for the first time in public. What did people expect us to do to extract information? There was ultimately nothing we could do, short of putting them on the rack and torturing them.

We are going to succeed because God wants us to succeed. God wants to point to us - South Africa is an unlikely example to be held up to the rest of the world. If our case was so hopeless, imagine the hope it can give to others. God will say: they were not smart, they were certainly not virtuous, but look at them now. They used to have a nightmare called apartheid. That has ended. Your problem, too, will be solved.

السلامة والعدالة

A case of incurable optimism



ROBERT FISK

'Why do we not rage against those who accept that our betters are right preferring missiles to medicine?'

YEARS BEFORE her death, my mother told me there must be no black ties at her funeral. "Everyone must wear bright clothes," she said. "There must be lots of flowers and happy hymns." And a few days ago, in the beautiful little church at Barning, just outside Maidstone, she had the funeral she asked for. There were mountains of flowers, not a black tie in sight - even the bearers wore casual suits - and the congregation sang "All things bright and beautiful". But my mother's death was not as she would have wished. And it was certainly not a death she deserved.

My father, Bill, was much older than Peggy, already 47 when he married her in 1946. He was borough treasurer of Maidstone and a son of the former first mate on the *Cutty Sark*, the sailing clipper that is now in permanent dry-dock at Greenwich. Peggy was 26, the daughter of well-to-do Kentish café-proprietors. Both had served their country. Bill was in the trenches of northern France in the First World War (Battle of Arras, 1918) and, as head of the local Home Guard in 1940, was asked by MI6 to lead a Maidstone resistance organisation to harass the Nazis after the expected German invasion; I still possess my father's ambitious plans for blowing up Maidstone East railway station and the adjoining high level bridge over the river Medway. My mother joined the RAF during the Battle of Britain, mending Spitfire radio sets at RAF Western Zoyland; her sister trained air gunners in radio navigation.

Peggy became a flame of optimism over my young life. "Everything will always work out alright in the end," she used to say to me. And when I once asked what was the point of struggling with my homework when we were all going to die one day, she replied: "By the time you grow up, they may have found a cure for that." In a way, my mother did believe in immortality and I took her incurable optimism with me, thousands of miles from Kent to Afghanistan, through the terrible battles of the Iran-Iraq war and to the conflict in Lebanon.

But there was another side to Peggy. As father fretted in retirement, she became a magistrate. I recall how one day, gently arguing with my father - whose views on criminal justice might have commended themselves to Judge Jeffreys - Peggy said, quite sharply: "The accused often tell the truth - and I don't always trust policemen." As a small boy, the first book she urged me to read on my own was the *Diary of Anne Frank* - because she wanted me to understand the nature of goodness. During the Israeli siege of Beirut in 1982, she discovered a rare telephone line into the Lebanese capital from Maidstone and used it to tell me how she despised the cru-



Peggy Fisk with her husband: she believed everything would work out alright in the end and that there might even be a cure for death

elity visited upon the Palestinians. She asked me repeatedly why governments spent so much money on guns.

She took up painting, water-colours and oils, still life and portraits. My father was a loyal man. He could be proud and generous but also censorious and authoritarian and he sometimes bullied Peggy, although his closest friends would not have known this. As she looked after him in his last years - he was to die in 1992, aged 93 - she talked quietly of the life of independence she would lead afterwards. She wanted to travel, to visit Lebanon and go to Ireland. She saw a lifetime of painting in front of her.

But just before my father died, she was told she had Parkinson's Disease and steadily lost the physical ability to live a dignified life - as surely as she maintained the will to survive. Within four years, she could scarcely speak or walk. So she communicated by pointing with a stick to letters on a piece of cardboard. Then she could no longer point. She insisted on moving around the garden of her home in a wheelchair. Then Peggy became too ill to move. Her last attempt to paint ended when she threw her brush onto the floor in frustra-

tion. Almost to the end, she believed they would find a cure for Parkinson's - the same "they" who might also one day find a cure for mortality.

In her last days, Peggy lost the power to swallow or eat and caught pneumonia. When I arrived home, she was desperately trying to cough, apparently drowning in her own lungs, weeping with pain. And as I watched her dying, I remembered the cost of Bill Clinton's latest adventure in the Middle East; in all, the US government spent \$70m in five minutes firing Cruise missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan. How much had it spent on investigating Parkinson's disease? How much, for that matter, had the British government spent?

The day after she died - there was no glimmer of recognition or emotion, Peggy just stopped breathing - I called the Parkinson's Disease Society in London. Each year they put up between a £1m and £1.5m on research. So did the British government. But last year, an official for the society told me, the Medical Research Council stopped funding neurological research: "no reason given." I called New York to talk to one of the top Parkinson's groups in the United States. Around £30m

was spent by the US government on neurological research (not all on Parkinson's), another £7m by private organisations, around £2.5m by the US Defence Department (for veterans) and pharmaceutical companies around £27m. So we - the West - were spending less on Parkinson's research in a year than we spent in five minutes on weapons.

It was the kind of human folly Peggy would have understood. And at her flowered funeral, I decided to point this out. I suggested to her friends who came to Barning church that we spent far too much time accepting cruel deaths, uncomplaining when money which might have cured cancer or Alzheimer's or Parkinson's was spent on weapons or military adventures. "Why do we not rage against those who accept the shameful idea that sickness must be 'incurable', that our betters know what they are doing when they prefer missiles to medicine?" I asked. "If resources had been better spent," I said, "Peggy would not have been in that coffin in front of the altar."

All this had an odd effect. You could have heard a flower petal drop when I was speaking. But the Rector, a kindly, intelligent man,

though evidently not from Church Militant, responded with a prayer, saying he would "commit this anger to God" - which, of course, entirely missed the point. Unless there is a Heavenly Post Office which redirects packages of anger to our presidents and prime ministers, there wasn't much point in bothering the Almighty. It was Peggy's friends I was addressing. Some of them had told me of their own relatives who were dying of supposedly incurable diseases; yet I felt afterwards that I had failed to make them understand as surely as I had the Rector.

They talked about Peggy being "at rest" now that she was no longer suffering. Letters arrived that spoke of Peggy's "release" - as if my mother wanted to die. I heard from one lady about "God's will" - which would suggest, if taken to its logical conclusion, that God was a sadist. If the message of Peggy's life was optimism and joy for others, the manner of her death - courtesy of our society's inverted values - was totally unnecessary. My father, an old-fashioned man, would have condemned my remarks in the church. My mother might have objected to their vehemence. But she would have wanted me to tell the truth.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HILARY ARMSTRONG



The Housing Minister replies to our article calling for the demolition of bad housing estates

THIS GOVERNMENT is committed to healing the divisions in our country. Our report *Bringing Britain Together*, launched last week, sets out a co-ordinated strategy to transform the lives of those trapped in areas of deprivation.

Many of these, but by no means all, are council estates. They are far from being all tower blocks. Some of them have been pockets of poverty for many years. Turning these neighbourhoods round, making them work for the people who live there, will take enormous effort from both central and local government, and from local communities.

As your leader reminded us, bold social experiments can become expensive flops. The key to reviving these neighbourhoods is putting people, not places, at the heart of the regeneration strategy. Our proposals are designed to help local people to take control over their own future.

In most cases, the communities can be turned round through renovation, or reduction to a human scale, rather than demolition - but if the right long-term solution is to demolish bad, unhealthy or unwanted housing, we will support that action. It is too pessimistic, however, to believe that this is the only solution. It is often the community that residents want rebuilt, not the housing.

A good example of this is Holly Street, where the report was launched, where tower blocks have been made places where people want to live.

There is no quick fix to these problems and no single answer. But, by mobilising resources at national, local and community levels, setting targets to improve the record of these poorest neighbourhoods on jobs, schools, housing and crime within five years, we can start to close the gap that has pushed too many to the margins of society.

Left to his own devices

THE BUSINESS of biography is like a political futures market, where promising stocks are bought up as a gamble on their imminent rise. Hence publishers' lists are an archaeology of recent history, reminding us who were the rising stars of two years ago. Who now remembers that brief period when Kenneth Clarke was a dead cert to become prime minister? By the time his two biographies hit the shops, his bloated corpse was floating, metaphorically, under Westminster Bridge.

John Kampfner's book, then, is a reminder of the high hopes that were vested in Robin Cook before the election, especially by the libertarian left. It was even speculated by the anonymous Labour MP called "Cassandra" in *Tribune* that Cook would replace Tony Blair within months of Labour victory. That was always silly, but few would have predicted quite how silly it would seem now.

The puzzle of Cook is how one of the Big Four in opposition - who joined Blair, Brown and Prescott in the "big guns" meeting before the weekly Shadow Cabinet - became so rapidly marginalised in government. One thing that this book puts beyond doubt is the weakness of Cook's



WEDNESDAY BOOK

ROBIN COOK

BY JOHN KAMPFNER, VICTOR GOLLANCZ, £16.99

position, despite holding one of the great offices of state. Cook was already out in the cold to a surprising extent while in opposition. The account of the days before and after Labour's landslide victory is striking, when Cook was not even able to choose his number two as minister for Europe.

Two weeks before the election, Cook was told, "by Blair's aide Jonathan Powell", that, if Labour won, he could not keep his deputy, Joyce Quin. On the day after the election, Cook spent half an hour with the new Prime Minister, and asked to have Clive Soley or Peter Hain instead. Kampfner comments mildly that these were "unlikely" choices; there was no prospect that Blair would accept either of these low-ranking MPs, whose main qualification was their leftish

position. The next day, Cook read that Blair had offered the job to Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, and later he was told that in fact it would be filled by Doug Henderson. The new Foreign Secretary seems to have been passive throughout. He "accepted the decision in good grace" despite thinking that the appointment of Henderson, as an ally of his rival Gordon Brown, was a "genuine threat".

There is a lot of rivalry with Brown in the book, and the impression given is all the more poisonous because of Kampfner's sober and factual style. The picture is of a collection of fragile egos that occasionally try to be nice to one another but are usually smug and retreat into the nursing of grievances. It may be that one of Cook's first mistakes as Foreign Secretary was driven by a desire not to be outdone in propaganda terms by the Chancellor, who was branded "Flash" Gordon within five days of the election for his boldness in making the Bank of England independent. But Brown had been planning his coup for months with the full support of Blair, whereas Cook had nothing in his cupboard apart from the well-trailed end of the ban on GCHQ trade unions and the signing of the Social Charter.

The idea of a Foreign Office "mission statement" came from one of his special advisers. Cook agreed, and it was prepared within 10 days. At its launch on 12 May, Cook proclaimed that Britain would "once again be a force for good in the world... our foreign policy must have an ethical dimension". It was a hostage to fortune, and the ransom was soon demanded. Kampfner's sympathy for his subject does not prevent him quoting at length from a 1978 attack on the Labour Government's sale of arms to the "repressive" Indonesian regime by the *New Statesman's* defence correspondent, who would 20 years later be a Labour Foreign Secretary approving the sale of arms to the same country.



Robin Cook is no "Flash" Gordon

Kampfner's original interest in writing the book was "the role of the radical left in the Labour Party under Tony Blair", but he ended up writing something much more interesting: the story of a very clever man who has never been quite in the right place or the right time. Cook wanted to be Chancellor, but his Keynesianism - rather than his antipathy to Brown - rules that out. The failure of Cook's shares to rise partly reflects the fact that the radical left does not have much of a role under Tony Blair.

The one issue on which Cook's democratic radicalism has any hope of influencing the Government is that of electoral reform, but Cook - having launched the dialogue with the Liberal Democrats - is now out of the loop on domestic policy. So that hope has been all but snuffed out.

This impressively well researched book paints a picture of a front-rank politician who thought he could rely on the quality of intellectual argument to win through, but who realised, probably too late, that suffering fools was necessary too.

JOHN RENTON

WEDNESDAY POEM

O TASTE AND SEE
BY DANNIE ABSE

Because of a kiss on the forehead
in the long Night's infirmary,
through the red wine let light shine deep.

Because of the thirty-six just men
that so stealthily roam this earth
raise high the glass and do not weep.

Who says the world is not a wedding?
Couples, in their oases, hillyabye.
Let glass be full before they sleep.

Toast all that which seems to vanish
like a rainbow stared at, those bright
truant things that will not keep;

and ignorance of the last night
of our lives, its furnished breathing.
Then, in the red wine, taste the light.

This poem comes from Dannie Abse's new collection
'Arcadia, One Mile' (Hutchinson, £6.99)

WALK FOR WILDLIFE
TO SAVE THE TIGER
SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

With the tiger in crisis WWF is taking action. You can help by taking part in one of over 200 walks across the UK. Register now for details of walks near you.

To: Hilary Dyson, WWF Walk for Wildlife,
FREEPOST SCE 729, Godalming GU7 1BR

Please send me _____ sponsor forms
REF AP55

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address: _____

County: _____

Postcode: _____

Please tick if under 18 ☐

Hotline 0645 097930

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act, you have the right to advise us at any time if you do not wish to receive further mailings from WWF, or organisations with whom we co-operate.

Casper Wrede

THE THEATRE director Casper Wrede is best remembered as the man who, with Michael Elliott, James Maxwell and, later, Braham Murray, created the company that has eventually emerged in Manchester as the Royal Exchange Theatre Company.

The building that houses this company, the old Cotton Exchange, was blown askew by the IRA one day in June 1996; but now, refurbished and expanded, it is due to re-open to the public on 30 November. Amidst the celebrations, many will feel the sadness of Casper Wrede's absence.

He was born heir to the title Baron Wrede of Etina in 1923, in Varberg, in the far-eastern region of Finland known as Karelia which the Russians annexed in the Thirties. At the age of 15 he found himself armed and fighting with the Germans against the Russians to recover Finnish soil. A few months later, he was fighting with the Russians against the retreating forces of Hitler's Third Reich.

The Second World War over, Wrede realised that life in an industrial family business, within an almost feudal society, was not for him. (Several decades later, he was to marry his childhood friend Karin Bang, who remained his loyal and devoted wife to the end.) His early influences were an aunt who ran the Swedish-speaking theatre in Helsinki, and the friendship of Amund Henningsstad, a mysterious guru-figure with whom he travelled around Norway and whose influence over his life was considerable. Wrede was still only 21 when, at Amund's suggestion, he travelled to England to enrol as a student on the director's course in the newly formed Old Vic School, where Glen Byam Shaw, George Devine and Michel St Denis were his tutors.

It was during his time there, in 1951, that he and a group of fellow students returned very late to their afternoon class with the excuse that he had been delayed by his marriage to Dilys Hamlett, one of the school's most promising actresses. A year or so later, his Edinburgh Festival production of Ibsen's *Miss Julie*, with Maggie Smith in the title role, moved to Oxford, bringing about his first meeting with the di-

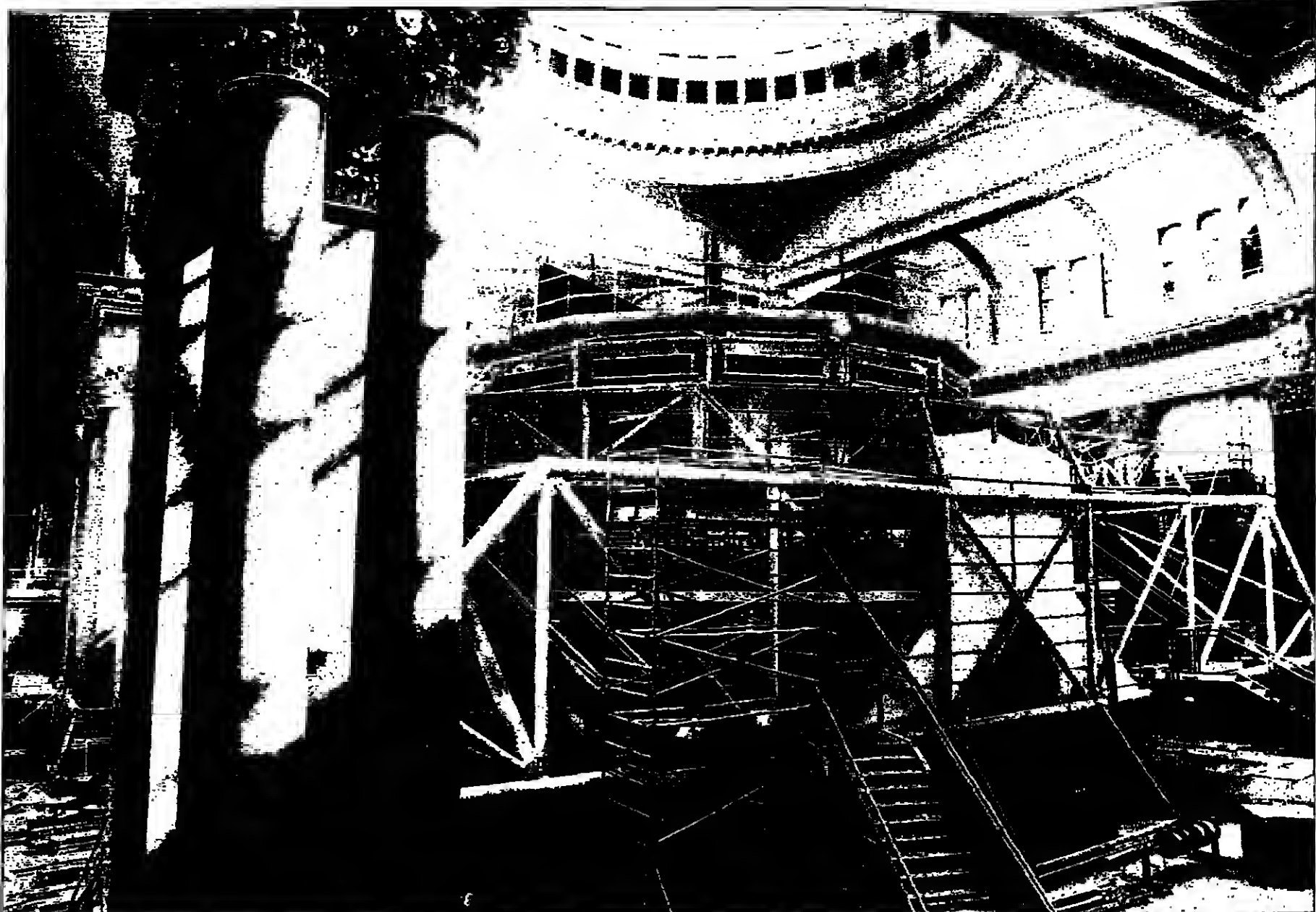


Yes, well, you see my dear, it is not so much this, it is rather more like this. You know – yes, yes – you know

rector Michael Elliott, with whom he was to work closely for many decades. Wrede spent two years with the Oxford University Dramatic Society (Ouds) as a professional producer.

While television was still in its stuttering infancy in the mid-Fifties, Wrede and Elliott brought to the small screen for the BBC such classics as *Twelfth Night*, Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, Euripides' *The Women of Troy* and Ibsen's *The Lady from the Sea*.

Also for television, Wrede directed Laurence Olivier in Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman*; Edith Evans in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*; Tom Courtenay in Alan Ayckbourn's *Time and Time Again*, and all the early television plays by Ronald Harwood. He also made documentaries, which included *The Summer in Gossensass* by Michael Meyer on the subject of Ibsen's old age, and



The 700-seater spaceship theatre of the Manchester Royal Exchange, co-founded by Wrede, in its final stages of restoration. It reopens in November Joel Fildes

Sibelius, a portrait of his fellow countryman.

Wrede's films for the cinema screen include *Private Potter* (1962), starring Tom Courtenay, *The Barber of Seaford Hill* (1963), *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1971), and *Ransom* (1955), with Sean Connery.

In 1959 Wrede founded the 59 Theatre Company which in a nationally acclaimed season brought to the Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith, such work as his own production of George Bichner's *Danton's Death* (translated by James Maxwell), the premiere of Alan Owen's *The Rough and Ready Lot*, and Elliott's production of Ibsen's *Brand*. This was the beginning of a theatre movement which has continued up to the present. The 69 Theatre Company was the next stage, launched at the Edinburgh Festival in 1968 by Wrede's pro-

duction of *Hamlet*, starring Tom Courtenay.

Wrede's method as a director was quite unique. He could somehow make you "find" your performance without "pushing" you, as the following story illustrates. In the 1968 *Hamlet* I was attempting Horatio. With 10 days to go to opening night, I nervously approached Wrede and explained that the essential core of the role seemed to be eluding me. A twinkle came into his eye as he explained in his high-pitched Scandinavian tones: "Yes, well, you see my dear it is not so much this" – and he held his right hand at right angles to his left – "it is rather more this" – and he switched hands. "You know – yes, yes – you know." I didn't exactly know, but from then on, his apparent confidence in my efforts meant that I began to enjoy the search.

The 1969 Theatre Company kept

going for several years, until, after much searching for a permanent home, the old Manchester Cotton Exchange was found. It was derelict – knee-deep in rubble upstairs and empty downstairs – but Wrede and Elliott saw its possibilities, and commissioned young architects to design a theatre in the upstairs section.

At last, in 1976, the 700-seater module, floating below the triple-domed roof of the Exchange, was officially opened. Over the next two decades, Wrede's choice of productions in that magic circle reflected major interests in European drama and new work by British writers; indeed he was instrumental in establishing the Mobil Playwriting Competition launched in 1984.

He personally directed over 20 productions at the Exchange; among them the British premiere of Heinrich von Kleist's *The Prince of*

Homburg in 1976; Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* in 1983; his own adaptation of Nadexhda Mandelstam's *Hope Against Hope* (1983); Ronald Harwood's *The Family*, with Paul Scofield, in 1978; an award-winning production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* in 1985; a double bill of *Oedipus the King* and *Oedipus at Colonus*, the company's 100th production in 1987; Iain Heggie's *American Bagpipes* in 1988, and Robin Glendinning's *Donny Boy* in 1990 and my own *Class K* in partnership with Greg Hersov in 1985.

He was too wise a man to tell actors how to act. He could draw from a cast a harmonised performance as if by magic. He was a very serious man who was no stranger to struggle – and this seemed to give him a special understanding of the individual human mind and heart. When he laughed, it was with joyous tears in his eyes.

He loved England, English people and their pastimes. At the Spurs football ground one Saturday, many years ago, when the Chelsea striker, Peter Osgood, had persistently fouled an opponent (much to the annoyance of the Tottenham crowd), Wrede turned to the outraged, flat-capped man beside him and said in his strangled Finnish accent: "Yes, well, you see my dear, Osgood is on the wrong side of himself this afternoon." Amazingly the man seemed to understand... as we all did – the lucky ones among us.

TREVOR PEACOCK

Casper Gustaf Kenneth Wrede, theatre director: born Varberg, Finland 8 February 1923; married 1951 Dilys Hamlett (one son; marriage dissolved 1976); 1982 Karin Bang (two daughters); died Helsinki 28 September 1998.

Cecil Hewett

THE DATING of timber-framed buildings was revolutionised from the early 1960s by Cecil Hewett.

Before that time, there had been a reluctance to attribute timber buildings that lacked an obvious historical context to any time before the 16th or 17th centuries. Two buildings which were to be central to Hewett's work, the barley and wheat barns erected by the religious order of the Knights Templar on their Essex manor of Cressing Temple, were for instance both put by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, in their county-wide survey of 1922, to the 16th century.

Hewett came to the problem from a practical background which led him to pioneer the study of the evolution of carpentry joints. He realised that their use must have been determined by the passage of time and fashionable trends amongst carpenters. At Cressing Temple, he was able to prove this, identifying the features of what are now termed "archaic carpentry", namely straight timbers, passing braces, notched-lap joints and spliced scarf joints.

His only precedent in this research was the Frenchman Henri Denoux, whose research on church and cathedral carpentry indicated an 11th- to 13th-century date for notched-lap joints. Confirmation of

Hewett's theories came from carbon 14 dating which put the Cressing barley and wheat barns to c1200 and c1275 respectively.

Hewett's early appreciation of timber-framed buildings first came from his father, a woodworker, and by walking and bicycling round Essex from his childhood home at Laindon. This experience of acquiring knowledge first-hand set the pattern for his later research in which he formulated his own ideas based on knowledge and logic irrespective of traditional received academic wisdom.

After National Service from 1944 until 1948, he trained in drawing, painting, silversmithing and cabinet-making at the former Chelmsford School of Art and at University College, Swansea. These crafts he taught in Essex schools for 19 years before taking up a post with the Greater London Council Historic Buildings Division in 1972, moving to Essex County Council's Historic Buildings Section in 1974.

Hewett's redating of the Cressing barns and other buildings did not go down too well everywhere, and proved to be a bombshell amongst the historical and architectural fraternity. For a number of years, researchers were split over his work, but gradually his ideas have gained acceptance, especially with the coming of the more precise



One should work like a "tightly stretched string"

scientific technique of tree-ring dating.

Hewett's ability to illustrate his ideas with arresting sketches and drawings was noticed by the Essex historian and academic the late A.C. (Gus) Edwards who realised that, to reach the outside world, Hewett would need to write about his findings. Edwards took him in hand and, as a result, the new ideas reached Germany, Scandinavia and especially the United States where

Hewett was, and is, greatly admired. His numerous publications have reached a wide audience, and he contributed to several television programmes, notably *In Search of the Master Carpenters*, with Rene Cutforth.

It was most fortunate that in 1980 Hewett published his major work, *English Historic Carpentry*, his best and most useful assessment of vernacular carpentry, which is still selling well today. Shortly after this book appeared, he suffered a severe stroke that set him back almost totally, except that, even though unable to communicate in any way, he remembered all his knowledge. Gradually, through sheer willpower and battling against appalling frustration, he regained most of his faculties. Hewett had always thought that one should work, as he said, like a "tightly stretched string" in order to extract the most from one's mind. It is possible that this approach to life accelerated the onset of his stroke and of his final illness.

Cecil Hewett was a rather private man who did not much of his early research whilst he was teaching. He was an inspired potter, silversmith and modelmaker, and there is a panache about all his work that is unforgettable. His style of illustration has been much copied. He sometimes would make a model to

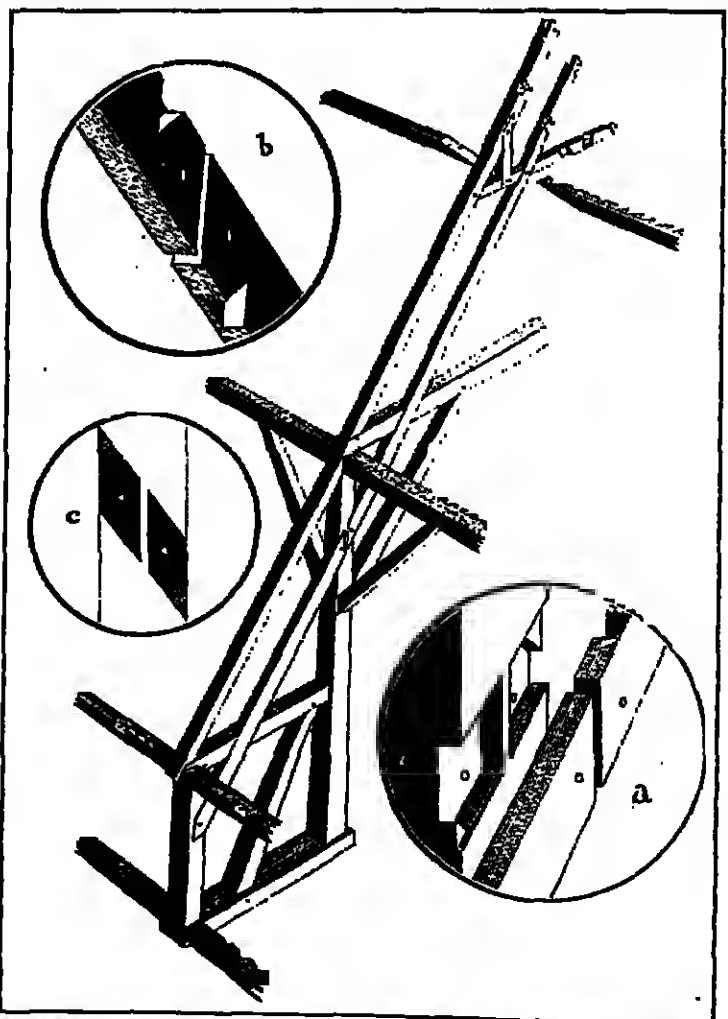
demonstrate a point. He did this to good effect when he co-founded a committee appointed in the Seventies to work out the age and construction methods of the famous round table at Winchester Castle reputed to be connected with King Arthur. Hewett appeared at the next meeting with a hatbox containing a complete, fully jointed model which he could wave around to demonstrate the rigidity of the structure.

The Science Museum in London has a number of models of Essex buildings which they commissioned from him in the early days.

Cecil Hewett's influence shows through in every listed building report on timber structures written these days. It is not many people of whom it can be said that they fundamentally changed the whole mode of thinking of experts in a whole field of study. Academic recognition only came late but was timely; in April this year Anglia Polytechnic University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Technology.

A. GIBSON
and D. ANDREWS

Cecil Alec Hewett, craftsman and historian of carpentry: born Laindon, Essex 26 September 1926; married 1957 Pat Burge (two sons); died Chelmsford, Essex 23 July 1998.



'Archaic carpentry': Cressing wheat barn, c1260, cross frame, showing simulated long timbers – a drawing by Hewett

Otakhon Latifi

OTAKHON LATIFI, who was gunned down outside his flat in the centre of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, is the latest victim in the unrest that has troubled this Central Asian country since it gained independence in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Latifi's career, from young Komsomol official to *Pravda* journalist to politician to exile to politician again to assassination victim, mirrored the psychological and physical upheavals of many Tajiks as they came to cope with the dramatic political changes that saw the Soviet system dissolve into a bitter five-year civil war.

Although a supporter of the Unit-

ed Tajik Opposition (UTO, an uneasy mixture of Islamists and democrats) against the neo-Communist rulers, Latifi was a moderate who tried to reconcile the two sides. His death will make more difficult the precarious process of national reconciliation, which has had a rocky ride since the peace accord signed by the two sides in Moscow in June 1997.

Since his return to Tajikistan from exile in Iran last year in the wake of the accord, Latifi had chaired the panel for legal issues under the National Reconciliation Commission, a joint government-opposition body which worked to stabilise the republic and to reintegrate

the opposition into the mainstream. In the months before his death, unknown attackers beat Latifi twice on the street. Despite these incidents he often went without his government-provided bodyguards.

Latifi was born in the Leninabad region of north-western Tajikistan into the family of a government official. After graduating from the journalism faculty of Leningrad University, he worked in a publishing house before joining Tajikistan's Komsomol newspaper for the Young Communist League. In 1966 he became an official of the Tajik Komsomol Central Committee.

The following year he returned to

journalism, becoming a special correspondent in neighbouring Uzbekistan for *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the national Komsomol paper. His satisfactory work led to promotion in 1971, when he began reporting from across Soviet Central Asia. In 1973 he became the Tajikistan correspondent for the Soviet daily *Pravda*, for which he worked for the next 16 years.

With the massive changes unleashed in the Soviet Union by Mikhail Gorbachev, Latifi turned to politics. In 1989 he became deputy chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers, with responsibility for science, culture, education and sport. He resigned in 1991 and once again fell

back on journalism, becoming *Izvestiya's* Tajikistan correspondent and later a correspondent for the weekly paper *Soyuz*.

However, Latifi remained politically active, chairing a pro-business party, the Popular Unity Front. He was a deputy prime minister in Tajikistan's short-lived national reconciliation government, set up in May 1992, which soon fell apart as the country collapsed into warring fiefdoms. Civil war had begun.

Latifi went into exile, living in neighbouring Afghanistan and Iran until 1997, with brief periods in Russia. It was in Moscow that he set up the Co-ordinating Centre for De-

mocratic Forces, a group supported financially by an international journalists' union. In 1993 he chaired the first two rounds of inter-Tajik peace talks held abroad.

He served on the UTO council and became a close aide to the deputy opposition leader Akbar Turajonzoda, the Tajik Muslim leader who turned against the Communists and had to flee with the collapse of the Islamist/democratic government. Turajonzoda was appointed first deputy prime minister in Tajikistan's coalition government earlier this year.

Despite Tajikistan's self-inflicted disaster of civil war and political up-

heaval, Latifi remained an optimist, believing Tajiks could themselves rebuild the country they had done so much to destroy. In 1991 he had started a private company called *Sinbad*, designed to bring Western tourists, particularly mountaineers, to Tajikistan to discover its incredible natural beauty. The civil war destroyed that business, but not Otakhon Latifi's faith in his country.

FELIX CORLEY

Otakhon Latifi, journalist and politician: born Pendjkent, Tajikistan, Soviet Union 17 March 1936; married (two sons); died Dushanbe 22 September 1998.

JPX 20 150

Professor Charles Kemball

CHARLES KEMBALL was not just a brilliant academic chemist, but made outstanding contributions to the universities he worked in and to the scientific community in general.

Born in Edinburgh in 1923, the only child of a dental surgeon, Kemball was educated at Edinburgh Academy. There he was rescued by a perceptive form-master from the Classics, towards which bright boys tended to be directed but for which he felt little aptitude. Only two years later he won an Exhibition on the science side into Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained a first class Honours degree in Chemistry in 1943.

His postgraduate work in the Colloid Science department was on the adsorption of organic compounds on mercury surfaces; this led to the award of a research fellowship at Trinity in 1946. During a year at Princeton in 1946-47 in association with Professor H.S. Taylor FRS, this interest in surface chemistry was directed into the field of heterogeneous catalysis which ultimately became his chemical home.

After Kemball's return to Trinity, he was tempted into the post of Junior Bursar in 1949. Here, as later, he combined productive science with substantial administrative contributions, as well as participating in the good things of college life. Indeed, after a rope declined to take his weight when he was demonstrating a fire escape device to a colleague, a notice appeared in college which said, "Visitors are requested not to feed the Junior Bursar".

After a move to the Physical Chemistry department in 1949, Kemball studied exchange reactions of hydrocarbons by mass spectrometry (separating molecules by molecular weight). He found that the major product from the exchange of propane with deuterium over rhodium filaments was the perdeutero compound - a surprising discovery which was the starting-point for much fruitful work in the catalytic field. In 1951 he was appointed to a Demonstratorship in Physical Chemistry, obtained a College Lectureship a little later and was awarded the prestigious Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

His significant work at Cambridge led to his appointment to the Chair of Chemistry at Queen's, Belfast, where he continued his very productive work on catalysis. This brought various medals and prizes, including the Corday-Morgan medal of the Chemical Society, culminating in 1965 with election to the Royal Society. He had a successful spell as Dean of Science from 1957 to 1960 and later took on additional duties as Vice-President to assist the Vice-Chancellor in the organisation of the expansion of the university, a further opportunity for exercising his skill in devising creative administrative solutions, particularly for the fair distribution of resources.

After 12 years at Queen's he returned to Scotland in 1966 to take up the Chair of Chemistry at Edinburgh. Here his research on catalytic reactions and intermediates flourished, making perceptive use of new techniques as they became available and deepening the positive collaboration with industry which had begun in Belfast, particularly



Kemball, centre, Professor of Chemistry at Edinburgh University, presenting awards to winners of an essay competition from Perth and Dundee, 1979

with ICI. He introduced two new concepts into the rather traditional departmental organisation: a rotating headship and the use of an academic post to lighten the administrative load which fell on the teaching staff. He also reorganised the teaching, particularly in the first year, initiating a very successful course for students who were not taking Chemistry further.

He was Dean of Science in Edinburgh

from 1975 to 1978. This was a difficult time financially for the universities and again he devised ingenious and fair solutions for the distribution of resources - and maintained morale. As Vice-Dean under him, I was initially a little scared of his efficiency, but his warmth and friendliness soon allayed my fears.

Meantime he made major contributions to the running of various scientific societies, including the Royal Institute of Chemistry (he was President from 1974 to 1976), the Chemical Society, and the Royal Society of Chemistry, in whose formation by the unification of the first two he played a major part. He was heavily involved in the publications activities of the societies, finally as chairman of the Publications and Information Board of the Royal Society of Chemistry; here as in other work his business acumen made its mark.

Kemball served on numerous other committees and advisory boards, in-

cluding the Physical Sciences Subcommittee of the University Grants Committee, and particularly appreciated a seven-year spell as a governor of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, having spent school holidays on a farm. His move after retirement to the fertile agricultural environment of Tynninghame in East Lothian enabled him and his wife, Kay, to develop and enjoy a flourishing garden.

In 1983, Kemball retired from the Chair of Chemistry (though not from ac-

Charles Kemball, chemist born Edinburgh 27 March 1923; Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge 1946-54; University Demonstrator in Physical Chemistry, Cambridge University 1951-54, Assistant Lecturer 1951-54; Professor of Physical Chemistry, Queen's University, Belfast 1954-66; FRS 1966; Professor of Chemistry, Edinburgh University 1966-83, Dean of the Faculty of Science 1975-78, Fellow 1983-88, Honorary Fellow 1988-96; CBE 1991; married 1956 Kay Purvis (one son, two daughters); died Tynninghame, East Lothian 4 September 1998.

PETER SCHWARTZ

FUTURISTIC NOTES

JULIAN RATHBONE

Sorry to disturb you. Tax Control here

FORGET THE miniaturised cameras everywhere, the bugs, the spotter planes, the satellites, think about computers and how they keep an eye on every aspect of our lives, and I am not thinking about the obvious things like credit ratings, insurance claims, political affiliation.

Using the details on Sainsbury's receipts over a year, a clever analyst, itself computer-created, could, probably does, arrive at a remarkably detailed and accurate picture of every regular customer: how much they and their family drink, eat, chocolate, use convenience foods, and so on; how their financial status fluctuates, whether or not they are impulse shoppers or fixated on the multi-buys and super-savers. Then add to Sainsbury's database those of every other retail outfit in the shopping mall.

GPs' and hospital records are now being computerised. Slot them into each personal file and the picture fills out that hit more: liver crisis two years ago (warning: no alcohol), high blood pressure (watch the salt intake in the convenience foods), diabetic (who's the chocolate for, then?).

All this information and much more is scattered over several databases in which we are all logged under different numerical and alphabetical codes and which, so far, do not speak easily to each other or to any central database. But IDs and smart cards are on the way: a steady drip of speculation and "discussion", nearly always presented in a way that makes the objectors look like naive or antisocial Luddites, is already softening us up.

In 1940 everyone had a number. Those who were alive then and are still alive now still have that number on their medical cards. No problem there then. Every one of our separate personal files, including those generated by credit cards and by supermarkets, and those held by the Inland Revenue or the bank could have the same number. It could even be the number of your car or your telephone. Certainly it will be the number on a nationwide employers' database and on your criminal record. Could be? Will be. And all that information could be, will be, available on a state-controlled database, logged under that one number. Too massive to handle for 60 million people? Ten years ago it might have been - not now. Think of the ease with



Smart cards: not for Luddites

which you can trawl the Internet for the most abstruse piece of information.

Can you imagine? A polite phone call. Sorry to disturb you Mr R, but here at the Central Health Office we see your purchase of chocolate has gone up and is spread over three different retail outlets. Your doctor has been informed. Sorry to disturb you Mr R, Tax Control here. Your cash withdrawals over the last three months are not accounted for through normal electronic channels. We are required to remind you of the penalties incurred by those employing unlicensed hauliers and paying them in cash... And so on.

Marvellous. Who could possibly object? The economy will be run more efficiently, our health needs properly assessed, cheating for benefits will be a thing of the past, and cheating on taxes too... and that's barely scratching the surface. Who are we that we should worry? Potential criminals? Welfare state scroungers? Anarchists, for Christ's sake?

There's no third way. Either you believe in the State's right to run things (that is, our lives) as efficiently as possible in the interests of the multinationals, I mean for the greatest good of the greatest number; or you don't. Whose side are you on? How can you justify your resistance? Are there enough of us to stop the rot? Are we sufficiently upset by it all to be bothered? As a romantic optimist with anarchist leanings (i.e. English) the answer for me is, yes, perhaps, maybe. Yes.

Julian Rathbone's latest novel, 'Trajectories' (Victor Gollancz, £16.99), is set in 2035

A primitive activity but a delicious breakfast

IS THERE any better breakfast than one of wild mushrooms, picked with the dew on them at 7am, cooked briefly in butter (with plenty of salt and pepper) at 7.30, and eaten at 7.35? As with new potatoes, speed into the pan is everything: if you delay more than a few minutes, half the magic is lost.

Twice during the week I have managed an ambrosial start to the day, held back from more regular gluttony only by the fact that mushrooms are so thin on the ground in our part of the country. Why do we not have more? Even now local finders, disappointed and chagrined by the dearth, are debating the matter keenly. Some say that we have not yet had enough rain - and maybe they are right.

After that scorching summer, we thought we were in for a bumper crop. As I understand it, heat is the one thing that mushrooms need and, in the wild, do not often get. In sustained hot weather the mycelium, or white fibrous root structure, grows strongly beneath the ground; then, come rain and a fall in temperature, it throws up fruit in the form of mushrooms. Most summers are too cool for it to perform with much vigour; but surely, after all those blazing days, it should be in tip-top form?

Reports from other areas such as West Wales and the Home Counties suggest that in some places it is. On my sister's farm in Berkshire one field has defied human assault to produce a tremendous crop. Edged with herbicide in the spring, left bare all summer because it was too hard to plough, then covered with dung from the

THE INDEPENDENT
ARCHIVE
30 SEPTEMBER 1989

Out in the dew, Duff Hart-Davis concludes that it is the elusive and mysterious nature of wild mushrooms that makes their pursuit so rewarding

farmyard, it still has a rock-like surface: yet mushrooms have forced their way up through the muck and straw in thousands.

In 1976 - the last summer comparable with the one just gone - the effect of autumn rain was astonishing. Until the middle of September there was not a mushroom in sight. Then, after weeks of drought, came downpours, and the fields simply turned white. Word spread to the village that one meadow in particular was carpeted. People arrived on foot, on bicycles, by car, bearing plastic bags, baskets and buckets. The prospect dumfounded them, for they could fill any receptacle without moving. Had they brought pick-up trucks or even lorries, they could have filled them as well.

It was altogether too much. Soon people were fed to the gills with fungi. After a few days they felt that they never wanted to see a mushroom again. Besides, with such superabundance, the thrill went out of the sport: the quarry was just too easy to find. It is the elusive and mysterious nature of wild mushrooms that normal-

ly makes their pursuit so rewarding.

This year we are in no danger of being spoilt. On the contrary, the shortage of prey has restored the excitement of the hunt and brought out the worst in competitors. Everybody, I suspect, has two or three favourite places in his or her mind's eye, and everybody gives evasive or positively misleading information about them is questioned. "No, no," one says apologetically, when a hunter returns empty-handed. "I meant you to turn left after you'd gone through that gate, not right..."

In no other pursuit does the maxim "first come, first served" apply so literally. All practitioners worth their salt are out soon after dawn, and all carry knives with which to cut off the blades of the stalks, thereby leaving behind the earth, mud and grass which infuriate the cook if brought home.

Why get so worked up? I hear someone asking. Why creep furtively about the fields in the half-light, gripping with apprehension and jealousy? If you must have mushrooms, why not go and buy some from the nearest supermarket?

Such questions miss the point, which is that in searching for wild food one reverts for a while to the primitive activity on which our ancestors' lives depended. To travel back into the distant past not only produces a delicious breakfast; it also renews contact, in a thoroughly therapeutic manner, with an earlier and far less frenetic stage of our evolution.

From 'The Independent', Saturday 30 September 1989. The *Law Report* returns tomorrow

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Princess Margaret, President, the Guide Association, gives a reception at Kensington Palace for Queen's Guides.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Coldstream Guards.

GARDENERS' COMPANY

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners held their annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service yesterday at All Hallows by the Tower, London EC3. The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, preached the sermon. A Reception and Supper were held afterwards at Trinity House, London EC3.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Stanley Bailey, former Chief Constable of Northumbria, 72; The Rev Gordon Barritt, former Principal, the National Children's Home, 78; Lord Belstead, former government minister, 66; Sir Derek Birkin, former chairman, RTZ, 69; General Sir Edward Burgess, 71; Miss Stephanie Cole, actress, 57; Viscount Cranborne, former government minister, 52; Mr Hilton Dawson MP, 45; Professor Sir Eric Denton, marine biologist, 75; Miss Angie Dickinson, actress, 67; Sir Peter Fawcett, former Commissioner, Bechuanaland, 83; Mr Staffan Gadd, chairman, J.S. Gadd Cie SA, Geneva, 64; Mrs Teresa Gorman MP, 67; Mr Anthony Green, painter, 59; Mr Alan Hacker, clarinetist and conductor, 60; The Right Rev Patrick Harris, Bishop of Southwell, 64; Miss Deborah Kerr, actress, 77; Miss Rala Lenska, actress, 51; Mr Johnny Mathis, ballad singer, 63; Mr Ian Ogilvy, actor, 55; Mr Andrew Palmer, former ambassador to the Holy See, 61; Mr John Spiers, publisher, 57; Mr Stewart Steven, former Editor, the London Evening Standard, 63; Sir Peter Yarranton, former Chairman, Sports Council, 74.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Etienne de Condillac, philosopher, 1715; William

Hutton, local historian and topographer, 1723; Jacques Necker, financier, 1732; Fitzroy James Henry Somerset, first Baron Raglan, field marshal, 1788; Karl Begas, painter, 1794; Frederick Sleigh Roberts, first Earl Roberts, field marshal, 1832; Johan Severin Svendsen, composer, 1840; Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, composer, 1852; William Wilet, promoter of daylight saving, 1856; Hermann Sudermann, playwright, 1857; Lewis Milestone, film director, 1895; John Innes Mackintosh Stewart ("Michael Innes"), literary scholar and writer, 1906; David Fyodorovich Oistrakh, violinist, 1908; Truman Capote, writer, 1924; Mare Bolan (Mark Feld), singer, songwriter and bandleader, 1947.

Deaths: St Jerome, 420; Sir Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, poet, murdered 1628; Henry King, poet and prelate, 1668; George Whitefield, religious leader, 1770; James Brindley, canal engineer, 1772; Augustin-François César Provencal de Saint-Hilaire, botanist and traveller, 1853; Franz Adam, painter, 1896; Georges-Ernest Jean-Marie Boulenger, French general and politician, committed suicide 1891; Charles Napier Henry, painter, 1917; Frederick Edwin Smith, first Earl of Birkenhead, Lord Chancellor, 1930; Sir Robert Hadfield, metallurgist, 1940; Richard Austin Freeman, author, and creator of 'Dr

John Thorncliffe", 1943; Lewis Fry Richardson, physicist, 1933; James Dean, actor, killed 1955; Simone Signoret (Simone Kaminker), actress, 1985.

On this day: the Siege of Yorktown began, 1781; Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* was first performed, Vienna 1791; the University of Berlin was opened, 1810; Bizet's opera *The Pearl Fishers* was first performed, Paris 1863; artificial silk (rayon) was first patented, 1902; the Balkan League was formed by Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro, 1913; Benito Mussolini formed the first Fascist government in Italy, 1922; the discovery of penicillin was first announced, 1928; the first experimental television broadcast by the BBC took place, 1929; Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* was first performed, Boston 1935; the *Morning Post* newspaper was last issued, 1937; Germany and the Soviet Union signed a pact agreeing on the partition of Poland, 1939; identity cards were issued in Britain, 1939; a British Expeditionary Force of 158,000 men was sent to France, 1939; after 277,264 flights, the Berlin airlift ended, 1948; Cinema was first exhibited by the inventor, Fred Waller, in New York, with the feature entitled *This is Cinerama*, 1929; Botswana became independent, 1966; BBC Radio 1 broadcast for the first time, 1967.

Today is the Feast Day of St Gregory the Enlightener, St Honorius of Canterbury, St Jerome and St Simon of Crépy.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Canaletto (v): Canaletto in England", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Elizabeth Miller, "Early English Mezzotints", 2pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Eating, Drinking and Making Merry in the 17th Century", 11.30am. The Wallace Collection, London W1: Joanne Hedley, "Titian's *Perseus and Andromeda*", 1pm. Royal Academy of Arts: Nicholas Watkins, "Ceramics, Satyr and the Mediterranean: Picasso, Matisse and Miró", 1pm. Royal Society of British Artists at the Mall Galleries, London SW1: Julian Halsby, "John Singer Sargent", 7pm.

DINNERS

Defence and Security Forum. Lady Olga Maitland, President of the Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening at the Carlton Club, London SW1. Lt-Gen Sir Christopher Wallace, Chief of Joint Operations, was the guest speaker. Col Philip Howes, Chairman, also spoke.



You ask the questions

(Such as: Melvyn Bragg, which waterproof fabric do you recommend for outdoor sex?)

Doyen of arts broadcasting, Labour peer and presenter of *The South Bank Show*, Melvyn Bragg, 58, was born in Wigan, Cumbria. He went to Oxford in 1957 and then joined the BBC as a general trainee. He published his first novel at the age of 26. Married with three children, Melvyn lives in London and Cumbria.

How do you now 'start the week'?
John O'Byrne, Dublin.
Relaxed.

Did it embarrass you winning the 'Literary Reviews' Bad Sex in Fiction Prize? If sex is a stumbling block for many fiction writers, which author's descriptions do you think are the most convincing?
Jonathan Fowler, Peterborough.
Yes, even though Auberon Waugh confessed that he had given it to me just for publicity.

I think I came quite near writing well about sex in *A Time To Dance*. I think I can improve on that but do not know whether the opportunity will arise. It is ridiculously difficult. Updike does it very well but he seems to leave out love. DH Lawrence, given his context, is still marvellous. The problem is pornography. It is utterly reductionist but, like all propaganda, very sure of itself. The love-in-sex experience is poetry to pornography and much more difficult.

a) Who's been your most interesting interviewee?
b) Who's been the most difficult to interview?
Jaime Grant, Brighton.
a) Too many. Mollie, Bacon, Bellow, Heaney, Bergman, Lean...
b) Dennis Potter, Nureyev.

As a Labour sympathiser, how can you justify an institution like the House of Lords?
Tim Nelson, Colchester.
I can't. That is why I have taken the job to help change it radically. I hope.

Do you believe in God?
Henry R. Peterson, Camden.
I believe there is an originating intelligence and pattern, maybe with a purpose.

Given the choice of anyone in history, who would you most like to appear on the 'South Bank Show'?
Simon Marks, Walsall.
Socrates.

Which was the last restaurant you visited and what did you eat?
Catherine Poole, Ipswich.
San Daniele, which is next to the Arsenal ground. Italian Salad and then John Dory.

What hair products do you use?
Suzanne Brooks, Eton.
Very little. Occasionally I use a bit of transparent goo to stamp it down.



How would you introduce yourself if you were the subject of a 'South Bank' retrospective?
Damian Lewis, Nottingham.
A clear nose so here's the head. Best known as Editor/Presenter of Arts programmes. Wide spectrum. Tells story about artists through their works and well-made films as lucidly as possible. Novelist, mainly regional. Then set out one or two themes with which to kick the programme off.

Do you regret not having devoted yourself solely to writing?
Lesley Price, Manchester.
Sometimes. But I did not earn enough money to keep myself and my family as a writer until my mid-40s, by which time I was heavily involved in, and enjoying, being an arts editor. The two do not clash, although time can be a problem.

Which author do you admire most?
Dan Hamilton, Streatham.
Shakespeare.

What's the biggest advantage of having a title - is it on your cheque book?
Jeremy Ross, Stevenage.
I have discovered no advantages of it so far. My cheque book will stay unaltered and some day, I hope, will again be accurate.

Goretex, Barbour or cagoule - what do you recommend for lying

out on for sex in the afternoon?
Leo Daniels, Epsom.
I don't do adverts.

What do you think about Carlton Television taking over Arsenal?
S Penrice, Highgate.
I am surprised these takeovers have been so long in coming. The clubs have a duty to defend the fans and I hope they take that seriously.

What's your biggest weakness?
What's your biggest strength?
Michelle Patterson, Richmond.

I'll keep that to myself.
No idea.

What do you count as your proudest achievement?
Katy O'Donnell, Isle of Wight.
The children (sorry for the embarrassment).

If you had a day of leisure tomorrow, where and how would you spend it, and who with?
Sara Archer, Ross-on-Wye.
I'd like to be totally alone in my favourite part of Cumbria walking throughout the day, reading, listening to music and having a couple of glasses in the evening.

What single thing would you most like to change about cultural life in Britain?
Isabel Parry, Whitstable.
The seemingly ineradicable snobbery. Not elitism but snobbery.

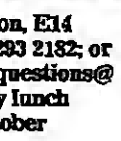
What's your favourite television programme at the moment, excluding the 'South Bank Show'?
Tony Gourley, Fulham.
Any drama by our best British writers - McGovern, Bennett, Bleasdale, Curtis/Eton/Weldon, La Plante, Wood, Mellor... and Frasier.

What would you most like to see in the Millennium Dome?
Jennifer Healy, East Dulwich.
A dome-sized replica of the human brain.

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: BJÖRK, THEN FOLLOWING, CAMILLE PAGLIA

Please send any questions you would like to put to stagger Björk and feminist author Camille Paglia to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL, by fax on 0171-283 2182, or e-mail them to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunch time on Friday, 2 October



Does giving a bit of money to the Labour Party salvage your conscience about being a wealthy socialist?
Rory Ainsworth, Norfolk.
I have no conscience about being a wealthy socialist. I supported the Labour Party when I was broke and I still support it. I have earned my money in the competitive worlds of commercial TV and books. I must say I think the questioner here is a rather sad case. We should all be wealthy socialists.

What advice would you give to aspiring broadcasters and writers: how has the business changed since you started?

Julian Druker, Northampton.
Broadcasters: Try for any on-air work you can get - student radio, cable TV. Anything that reaches an audience.

Writers: Write until you think something is good enough to send off to an agent and publisher. Working on a good newspaper/magazine helps in many ways.

In broadcasting and publishing, there is much more pressure but there are still more opportunities. Broadcasting is expanding and will continue to do so. It is much more of a business than when I started.

What will be your epitaph?
John O'Byrne, Dublin.
Why did you only give us one shot at this?

IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

12: THE DENTAL HYGIENIST
BY MAUREEN FREELY

SHE IS not the first. But she doesn't seem to know this. "So did you have a nice break this summer?" she asks as she positions her lights. I tell her it was wonderful. "Oh, good." She flashes me an ultra-white smile. "I'll take that as meaning you found plenty of time to floss."

What game is she playing? Is she for real? This is what I hate about dental hygienists - they always are. Cravenly, I explain that I did take my floss on holiday with me, but even though I had it right next to my toothbrush, I kept forgetting.

"Are you sure it was right next to your toothbrush?" she asks, as she puts on her gloves. As I shrink to half my normal size, I manage to nod. "And you're sure it was your toothbrush." I tell her in the smallest voice I've had in years that I know how strange that sounds. "All I can do is keep trying."

As she takes out her tools, she says, "Well, the best thing is to put the floss right next to your toothbrush so that it's impossible to forget it." She plunges her hands in my mouth. She does not like what she sees. "Oh dear, oh dear. Such a lot of plaque."

"Do you understand what this means?" she asks. I do, but I don't want to hear it again. I can understand that, if you'd spent all those years at dental hygiene school, you'd end up having to take teeth very seriously. But why is it that they can't understand why the rest of us might forget to floss, because something more important might have come up at the crucial moment?

As she scrapes away, I imagine her unlocking herself from a passionate embrace and saying, "I can't go on with this. Not until I've flossed." I imagine her strapping an extra floss dispenser to her toothbrush whenever she goes on a trip, and then checking it the way other people check their passports and money. I imagine her telling her best friend about a break-in, and saying, "But the worst

thing is that they took all of my floss."

I imagine her having a soft spot for Kenneth Starr, because at least he flosses. I can see her shaking her head as the TV cameras show the latest famine, war, or flood victims, and murmuring, "Just look at what all this has done to their gums."

I imagine her as a missionary, celebrating International Flossing Day with a classroom of shoeless children, pointing out the major trouble spots on a map labelled "Plaque Reserves of the World" - but despite all these cruel and extravagant thoughts, I am still surprised to look up and see her standing over me holding an electric toothbrush.

"Do you brush your teeth?" she asks now. "Have you ever considered charm school?" I feel like saying, "Do you know who you're talking to? May I remind you that I happen to be an adult?"

I've accepted the electric toothbrush, and I'm demonstrating my inferior brushing method, and letting her tell me how I can improve it. I don't hear a word of it. I am too busy bating her, and counting the seconds before I can leave this antiseptic room for ever.

It's only when I get back in my car that I notice how much better my teeth feel. I decide maybe it was worth it, and maybe I just hated this woman because she was right and I was wrong.

I actually remember to floss that night. The second night I forget, but actually make a special trip back downstairs to correct the oversight. By the third night, I'm so into it that I throw an extra dispenser into my handbag, because you never know when you might need it.

I start recommending it to friends. When they smile at me in disbelief, I find myself checking the state of their gums. And thinking how pleased my own personal trainer will be the next time I go in for a check-up. This is what I hate most about plaque imperialists - the way they colonise you.



GERAINT LEWIS

Remember: nobody likes a smart alec



Julia Baxter Peter Lomas

ONCE AGAIN the men of Mensa, despite their supposed intelligence, have proved themselves neither funny nor clever. One must be automatically suspicious of those who not only insist that size matters, but who flaunt the size of their IQs in front of the rest of the population as a mark of superiority. At last a female member of the high IQ society has taken them to task and

Men who fail to impress may be using the wrong organ. By Suzanne Moore

even threatened to start a rival organisation. Julia Baxter has resigned from the governing board of Mensa after claiming its leaders were "sexist, manipulative and bullying". She has also said informally that Mensa is tearing itself to pieces. "There are dark forces at work which represent a very unhealthy aspect of high intelligence."

Quite reasonably, Mrs Baxter believes that intelligence is not simply a matter of performing well in IQ tests, she would also like to promote emotional maturity and personal development. She wants to call her new organisation

not the Provisional wing of Mensa, or even Continuity Mensa, but Atticus.

Anyone who has done an IQ test knows that the more of these things you do, the more you can learn how to do them. They may indicate a kind of mental agility but they are no guide to communication skills, creativity or ability to function in what Julia Baxter calls "the real world".

Even amongst psychologists they are a subject of intense debate for they have long been used to prove that, on the whole, both women and black people are less intelligent than white men.

All of us have had the disorientating experience of meeting exceptionally clever people who are sorely lacking in fundamental social skills. When we read of another child prodigy who is being sent off to Oxford to do a Maths degree at the age of 12, we tend to worry because we now understand that emotional development is intrinsic to the happiness and success of well-rounded individuals.

Indeed the shelves of bookshops are now full of literature on what we call "emotional intelligence" and how to nurture it in children. Too often emotional intelligence is seen as a

touchy-feely kind of affair, as a softer, more feminine version of the hard, macho ability to retain information. This is not the case at all. Often the most successful businessmen and managers are those who operate through a mixture of brain power and the capability to understand their own motivations as well as those of others.

What is often called feminine intuition or cunning is often little more than a highly formed skill at reading other people through their body language as well as their words. Machiavelli's political insight, for instance, was based on a kind of emotional intelligence which meant being able to empathise with others in order to get one up on them.

Politicians particularly need to use emotional intelligence to gain support. Tony Blair is a master of the art, displaying the kind of emotional intelligence that Brown finds so difficult.

The first time I went to the House of Commons I was struck by the extraordinary inability of so many politicians to use this part of their brain. Highly motivated, ambitious and clever though they may be, they often see emotion as a weakness and as something to be avoided. If you are not in touch with your feelings you

are far more likely to be at their mercy and be overwhelmed by them - as Bill Clinton must now be realising.

The super brainy Robin Cook, admired by his colleagues for his ability to process large amounts of detailed facts and figures, may be quick-thinking, but his inability to manage the end of his marriage displayed poor emotional intelligence which in the end was damaging to him. Mo Mowlam, on the other hand, has proved herself to be an incredibly dextrous player because of her communication and "people skills".

Yet Mensa appears to be full of intelligent people who would rather pat each other on the back for their big IQs rather than try to create an organisation that fosters genuine intellectual curiosity.

To continue to adhere to a system of measuring intelligence that has at times been used to make all sorts of hideous eugenic arguments doesn't strike me as too clever to begin with.

Noel Burger, who was one of those behind the vote of no-confidence in Julia Baxter, denies accusations of misogyny. The organisation, he claims, is bound to be male-dominated because "There are more men

in the top two per cent of intelligence than women, and this is reflected by the membership. The curve of intelligence shows there are more men at the two extreme ends and women occupy the middle ground."

If members of Mensa stopped congratulating themselves on their ability to pass grown-up versions of the 11 plus, they would see that what is at work in what Baxter calls their "self-rationalisation" is an acute inability to face up to the modern world. The combination of information technology and the need for a flexible and multi-skilled workforce has meant that other kinds of intelligence are not only valid but essential for the success of a modern economy.

None of this can be measured by an IQ test any more than it can be measured by one's skill at noughts and crosses. The future belongs to those who are adaptable and yet, by their refusal to adapt, some members of Mensa illustrate perfectly that a certain measure of intelligence is no use if it doesn't go hand in hand with an ability to read the writing on the wall.

The capacity to think ahead is a sign of both real intelligence and emotional maturity. On this score, Mensa is managing to look not rightfully smart but dumb and dumber.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

FULCRUM PUBLISHING LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.1(2)(a) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidators of the above named company intend making a distribution to creditors. The creditors of the company are required, on or before 23rd October 1998 to prove their debts by sending to the undersigned, Lynn Gibson at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6DE the particulars of the claims, written statements of the amounts they claim to be due to them from the company and, if in dispute, to provide such further details or produce such documentary evidence as may appear to the liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt before the date mentioned above is not entitled to dividends, by reason that he has not participated in the intended distribution (mentioned) above or any other distribution declared before his debt is proved.
Dated 23rd September 1998
L. GIBSON, Joint Liquidator

FIRST STUDIO LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1GD on Friday 10th October 1998 at 11.00 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a liquidator. The creditors of the company are required to attend the meeting in person or by proxy. A proxy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57-60 Highgate Road, London NW10 7AQ quoting the reference above.
Dated this 22nd day of September 1998
By Order of the Board
F.S. Melchior-Cochet, Director

Unusual Gifts
A NEWSPAPER for that special date, 1998-1999, most often available. Ideal birthday gift. Remember when. Tel: 0181-888 8823. Or CALL FREE 0800 550 000.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity
Action on Elder Abuse (AEA) 1997
Schemes - working
Mentoring: LAFFP/AMC/CD/Lab
The Charity Commission have made a scheme for the charity. A copy can be sent for the next month of Action on Elder Abuse. Aerial House, 1201 London Road, London SW16 6LH, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57-60 Highgate Road, London NW10 7AQ quoting the reference above.

Services
REJECTED ON CREDIT
BANK ACCOUNT CREDIT CREDIT
LOW MILEAGE PRICES
JOB SECURITY
ARMED FORCES EMPLOYERS
UK AND EU CITIZENS
REGAIN YOUR CREDIT RATING
Quickly
CALL 01438 883811 NOW
SEAL OF APPROVAL

Independent Parents

IDEAL NANNIES
• Nannies' Helps
• Maternity Nurses
• Temp/Permanent
• Full-time/part-time
• Overseas Dept.
0181 748 4868
London House
271-273 King Street
HammerSmith
W6 9LZ
Riverscourt Park

Independent Parents

GREYCOAT
PLACEMENTS
LTD
HOUSEKEEPERS/COOKS
In order to ensure quality service, we have a strict policy of only employing people who have been recommended by other employers. We have a long history of providing a reliable, professional and cost-effective service. We are now looking for more people to join our team. If you are interested, please contact us on 0171 233 9950. We are based at 271-273 King Street, London W6 9LZ.



0171 233 9950



Antonio Berardi: hand-painted leather



Clements Ribeiro: cutwork dress and zebra boots



Hussein Chalayan: refined modernity



Robert Cary-Williams: urban survival gear



Alexander McQueen: arts and crafts tapestry

Juicy fruits

In this season of high camp, choosing a wardrobe for next summer requires a careful eye. By Tamsin Blanchard

What is a girl to wear next summer? Ask some of the designers who have been showing at London Fashion Week over the past five days and the answer may be a fur stole, dyed red and green, worn with shoes so high and spiky you would be incapacitated (Tristan Weber); an organza skirt and a pair of customised ice-skating boots (Boudicca); a leather neck-brace (Alexander McQueen), a dress so short it reveals your sequined knickers (Matthew Williamson), a suffocating, crudely printed bustier so short you'd catch a chill around your nether regions and would need to be waxed from your toes to your belly-button (Sean McGowan), or a tinsel bikini (Julien Macdonald).

If you don't like these answers – and why should you? – you could look elsewhere. But many of the offerings on the catwalks over the past five days have been nothing more than camp twaddle – clothes made by self-indulgent designers who should know by now that no woman wants to look like a) a sci-fi superhero, b) a drag queen, c) a freak. Girl power does not

mean women want to wear ugly clothes. None that I know, anyway. But there were also clothes here for intelligent, fashion-conscious women to salivate over.

My own shopping list would include a modern and graphic dress in red by Mulligan. The designer Tracy Mulligan made a welcome comeback to the catwalks and her collection was clean, simple and easy to wear. My list would also include a lemon yellow dress with an elasticated waist and ribbons at the shoulders, by Sonja Nuttall. As Suzanne Clements of Clements Ribeiro recently told me, the dress is the answer to most women's wardrobe problems. It pulls you together and skims over the lumps and bumps. And although lemon yellow may sound a peculiar colour, it looked bright, fresh and sunny. For evening wear, I would go along with Clements Ribeiro's suggestion of light, lacy dresses that looked feminine without being fussy. Not surprisingly, it is the women of Fashion Week who are providing the most wearable, most desirable clothes.

Hard-edged, aggressive fashion

has – it would appear – had its day. Even Alexander McQueen softened his shoulders and made flattering cocktail dresses in softly draped jersey, while Hussein Chalayan's simple, modern pieces, including jackets and skirts with geometric shaping, were a must-have.

From Paul Smith – London's answer to Ralph Lauren – there were sumptuous satin duster coats in baby pink, and ice-blue satin shoes for evening, or simply jeans and a relaxed tailored jacket for everyday wear. Thankfully, there is an end in sight to the stranglehold the colour grey has had over fashion for the past three seasons. Summer 1999 promises to be one of juicy fruit colours.

Finally, my list would have to include a pair of 24-carat gold shoes by Manolo Blahnik for Antonio Berardi – the newest alternative to jewellery and, at £10,000 a pair, best kept locked up in a jewellery box – to wear with a batik print chiffon summer dress, or a soft and lightweight, floor-length, knitted angora dress. Practical? Not in the least, but fine and precious all the same.



Pearce Fionda: signature stripes



Sonja Nuttall: intelligent clothes



Roland Mouret: modern elegance



Owen Gaster: aerosol-paint suit



Mulligan: modern, graphic dressing



Matthew Williamson: delicate lace

London's Dance Umbrella Festival owes its success and scale to the tireless efforts of one woman. By John Percival

Decades of dancing on a piece of paper

A single sheet of A4 paper brought about the first Dance Umbrella festival 20 years ago. Val Bourne, who started the whole thing and still runs it, has the documents to this day. She remembers that Noel Goodwin of the Arts Council's dance panel came back from a visit to New York and mentioned an organisation there that provided the shelter of a joint season for companies which could not otherwise afford a showing. Why don't we try the same? people asked. Bourne, a former dancer working in the Council's dance department, was told to draw up a scheme. She did so, succinctly on that sheet of paper, then left the Arts Council to become dance officer for Greater London Arts.

To her surprise there came a phone call from her former boss, Jane Nicholas: "Well, the money's approved, you'd better do something about it." Luckily her new employers agreed that the project could fall within her remit.

The money, in fact, wasn't much – not enough, for instance, for any advertising except a single scrappy leaflet. But somehow, within about nine months, Britain's first festival of modern dance was up and running taking its name, Dance Umbrella, from its American inspiration (with permission – Bourne is always punctilious). And thanks to word of mouth, plus a boost from *Time Out* (whose dance editor, Jan Murray, became a member of Umbrella's board), audiences in the admittedly modest theatres were near capacity.

Looking at the grand scope of this year's Dance Umbrella, it's a shock to remember that in 1978 there was just enough cash for two weeks at Riverside Studios by British dance soloists and tiny groups. This was combined with a fortnight by four

American soloists which Murray was already booking for the Institute of Contemporary Arts. The Arts Council threw a tantrum about this; they wanted a purely domestic festival and insisted that not a penny of their support be spent on the foreigners, so the cost of presenting them had to be raised elsewhere.

Compare that with this year's festival, when the Barbican, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sadler's Wells, the Roundhouse, the Place and the ICA are all brought into play over a period of two full months, not to mention a week of site-specific performances in the new British Library, no less. And now the impressive British contribution is matched by dancers from Germany (the renowned Frankfurt Ballet's overdue British debut), Japan, Holland, Spain and even Russia, besides four American companies who are long-established Umbrella favourites.

Siohhan Davies, whose internationally admired company starts the season tomorrow with a new programme that has already been cheered on tour, was one of the hopeful young British dancers taking part in 1978.

She was there for the opening night when a long, long solo (53 minutes with no music) by the American Douglas Dunn drove some spectators to leave during the action and left others weary and bored.

One man even shouted as he walked out: "Bloody rubbish, you're insulting my intelligence," which prompted another voice in the audience to exhort the dancer: "Just carry on, I love it!"

In fact the problem was, if anything, too much intelligence: an intellectual handling of highly varied movement into contrasted sequences that could seem dry. We had never seen anything remotely like it before – but that was the whole point.



Dance Umbrella includes a week of site-specific performances ranging from the South Bank Centre to the British Library

Dee Conway

"It threw everybody off kilter," Davies remembers, "dancers, critics, choreographers. But it was very good for us all, challenging ideas about what dance could be. That opened a door, and we had to move on."

British modern dance had begun only a dozen or so years earlier with the reorganisation of Ballet Rambert and the founding of the London Contemporary Dance, and by 1978 the handful of our dancers involved in the first Umbrella was more or less the entire quota available outside those companies. Nowadays, Bourne reckons, there are about 300 groups spread around the country.

Whether most of them have high enough creative standards is another matter. But the best can be very good, and most of those have been nurtured by Dance Umbrella and have been stimulated by the variety of challenging work that the Umbrella presents.

When Davies moved on to form her own company in 1981, Dance Umbrella (by then a recurrent fixture) helped find rehearsal space, organised a tour for her, monitored her financial stability and helped her to understand what she wanted to do. And the opportunity for performances each year made all the difference to her and other developing British artists. "It meant that one had a commitment to a regular platform in an exciting arena, made it possible to throw a line out into the future. We had a future."

Davies is only one of many now admired and established British creators who owe much of their achievement to Val Bourne and the shelter of her Umbrella: Richard Alston, Jonathan Burrows, Michael Clark and Siohhan Jeyasingh, for instance, are among others taking part this time. But one reason why the British contingent had to grow strong was (as the funding bodies eventually realised) the constant challenge of the artists Bourne found overseas: amazing and previously unknown performers such as Bill T Jones and Arnie Zane (a partnership as close and rare as that of Fonteyn and Nureyev), and the Japanese-American duo Eiko & Koma who return this year; choreographers as unusual and provocative as Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Maguy Marin, Mark Morris, and many more.

It is not only London that has benefited. Even in 1978 the Arncliffe in Bristol joined in to take three of the Umbrella presentations and for years Umbrella took several of its offerings outside the capital, until it found that this cost too much.

However, it started a management service and still organises many tours. It has also put on festivals in the North-west region, in Newcastle (which continues, but now under local management) and in Sheffield and, most recently, the Working Dance Umbrella, which also continues on a biennial basis.

All this has been not so much a career as a loving obsession for Val Bourne. Judge the extent of her commitment by the fact that in the early days she willingly turned out of her own home and stayed with a friend so that visiting dancers could use her flat, since there was no possibility of their being able to afford hotels.

In fact something similar can still happen, and did only the other day when confirmation was still awaited for funding one of the Umbrella's future projects.

Yet she always plays down her own part, and praises the colleagues who have worked with her. Dismissing the time she spends fighting for money, juggling venues and dates, holding the hands of her artists and racing all over Britain, Europe and America to find new talent, Bourne likens her own contribution to that of anyone who, seeing and enjoying something, wants to show it to all her friends. "I consider myself extremely privileged to be able to have such a good time," she told me. But Davies, like the rest of us, has a higher opinion.

"Our world is a more exciting, richer, kinder place because of her work. And to do it always with courtesy and thoughtfulness, as she has done, is an extra."

Dance Umbrella begins on 1 October at venues across London

DEBUT

THE ACTOR: Barrie Rutter THE ROLE: Macbeth THE YEAR: 1965

WE PUT on *Macbeth* when I was in the upper sixth in December 1964 and then we went on tour with it to France and Germany around the Easter time of the following year.

I had got into acting because I had the biggest gob in the school – the drama teacher, Mr Siddie, suggested that I put it to good use. Obviously, there was no one going to play Macbeth but me.

It was an amazing tour, incredibly homespun. The school – Greatfield in Hull – set about raising funds and we made everything ourselves. Even the swords were forged in the metal workshop. Half the town seemed to get involved – it was a real entrepreneurial effort.

We got to our last stop, a school in Unna, near Dortmund, West Germany. For some reason, just before we went on, the guy playing Macduff said: "What if our swords should happen to break?" I said: "Come on, it's our last show, why would they break now?"

Well, the stage turned out to be brand new and slippery as hell. A warning went out for us all to keep our centre of gravity – have a low arse and wet knees, as they say. Then it came to the fight between



Macduff and me and two things happened simultaneously – his sword broke and I slipped and went reeling back against the scenery.

The next thing I heard was a whisper in my ear saying: "Die and I'll drag you off stage," and so he stabbed me with his knife.

I did a big, dramatic death, very non-Macbeth-like, and with one finger hooked in this chain-mail we'd knitted out of twine, he dragged me off-stage. It looked so heroic that the whole audience went potty and we had to encore the fight. They thought we'd rigged it.

Although I had taken part in a few plays before that at school, and had a season at the National Youth Theatre that year, the tour and that incident often come back to me.

It confirmed in my mind that I felt at home on the stage – I just enjoyed being up there – and it taught me that you should never panic. If things go wrong, let the audience know. I have a great antagonism towards the man who walks on and says: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, the show will have to be cancelled." What unforeseen circumstances? Just let the audience see what you are working with. I'm a great believer in that. Even mishaps can be metamorphosed into magical events.

Barrie Rutter will be appearing in *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, West Yorkshire Playhouse, from 15 Oct

INTERVIEW BY DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Sweetly tentative among the crags of time

LAUNCHING THEIR new season at the Barbican on Wednesday, Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra played Bruckner's Sixth Symphony and Mozart's last Piano Concerto, K595, with Radu Lupu as soloist. Of Bruckner's mature symphonies, the Sixth is probably the least familiar – less emotive than its neighbours, and with a finale that is robustly cheerful.

It was here that Davis's shaping hand was most evident, in subtle adjustments of speed and easing the beginnings and endings of sections. But if he was sure of how he wanted the finale to go, and always made it sound natural, the first movement by comparison seemed less clear and even incompletely realised, partly because Bruckner's counterpoint was less transparent, less clearly balanced than it might have been, and partly because Davis took a passive view of the music's craggy, rhythmic character.

The opening of the Concerto was much more up his street, and he clearly enjoyed tracing a seamless, singing line with an air of smiling benevolence. This suited Radu Lupu to a tee.

No one could deny that Lupu made a lovely, warm sound, and while he kept the volume down

CLASSICAL MUSIC

BRUCKNER, MOZART
LSC/DAVIS
BARBICAN, LONDON
MOZART
LSC/JOSEFOVITZ
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL, LONDON

noticeably on his first entry, his tone still seemed full and carried well. Beautiful tone quality and the kind of phrasing that has no abrupt corners suited a work which is above all fluent and mellow, but Lupu's tendency to minimise dynamic contrasts and to slide precipitously into phrase endings, as if their features had been worn smooth by time, came to have a soporific effect.

He was markedly conservative in adding embellishments and fleshing out those passages that Mozart left a bit bare, expecting pianists to supply what was needed, but that is probably erring on the right side, and some of the details that Lupu did supply seemed like sweetly tentative suggestions – a long way short of his aptly powerful projection in Mozart's own cadenzas.

Mozart's C minor Piano Concerto, K491, is a more dramatic and moody piece than K595, but under the limp conducting of David Josefowitz it was not surprising that the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra sold it short at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday.

In the circumstances, the young pianist Ashley Wass played impeccably – not only stylishly, but also with subtle, expressive shading and lovely liquid tone quality.

Josefovitz set a tempo for the final variations that was almost unmanageably fast, but Wass survived its hazards, adjusting the speed in the final section a bit too much, as if in reproof. His Sunday morning solo recital at the Wallace Collection on 8 November is something to look forward to.

After the interval, an even younger soloist, the 15-year-old Alexander Sitkovetsky, made a fine job of Mozart's D major Violin Concerto, and projected with great confidence, but the rest of this all-Mozart concert was a rather dispiriting affair, for though the band boasted a good deal of youthful talent and an unusual number of pretty girls, the direction was sadly uninspiring.

ADRIAN JACK

Psyching up for a performance to remember

CLASSICAL MUSIC

WEBER, DVORAK,
BEETHOVEN,
LPO/NORRINGTON
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL,
LONDON

HAVE YOU noticed how individual soloists employ different "psyching up" techniques for their first entries in big orchestral concertos? Sunday night's Royal Festival Hall presentation of Dvorak's Cello Concerto with Heinrich Schiff was typically revealing. Schiff, himself a conductor, sat by while a bespectacled Sir Roger Norrington cued a lean, swift-moving orchestral introduction from the London Philharmonic. Schiff would close his eyes

as the melodies soared, glanced at the leader, then mimic the orchestra's cello part with his left hand. He was "right in there", living the work

to its last demisemiquaver, so by the time his big moment arrived, he was prepared.

Schiff's tone is strong, husky and unrelentingly intense, though he can wittle it down to a soft tenor, as he did for the heart-rending reprise of the big tune where cello and flute share the music between them. Elsewhere, he'd thrust his bow like a butcher carving steak. It was fine playing, only occasionally troubled by a tendency to play sharp.

A nod towards the rostrum signalled the second movement, a passionate yet inward reading, with supple solo phrasing and powerful interjections from the orchestra. The finale launched to an upbeat tempo, buoyant and pointed. Schiff made an eloquent statement of the Concerto's closing pages, soaring like a bird on a high trill, then descending before rising on one of the most defiant solo crescendos in the entire repertoire.

The concert opened with a vigorous reading of Weber's Overture, notable principally for Norrington's phrasing of the coy little woodwind figuration that scurries past during the quiet introduction, and for some powerful horns later on. Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, on the other hand, was a riot of a performance, and totally convincing save for some unusual crescendi and diminuendi. And we were served every repeat intact, bar

the big one in the finale. We also enjoyed a classical orchestral layout, with divided violin desks and an impressive show of double-basses ranged across the rear of the stage. The horns raged triumphant; tempos were mostly very fast; the first movement's six-eight vivace exhibited tremendous rhythmic vitality; and the hectic race home was most emphatically "con brio". A performance to remember.

ROBERT COWAN

BITE:98

A HUEY P. NEWTON STORY

OPERA AND PERFORMANCE
BY ROGER GUENEVRE SMITH

A VIVID PORTRAIT OF THE
BLACK PANTHER LEADER AND
HIS CONTROVERSIAL DISSENT

"Electricity and hypnotic performance..."
New York Times



Barbican Centre
Box Office 071 530 8891 (Mon-Sun 10am-6pm)

INDEPENDENT AMERICA

071 530 8891

Getting away with murder

Patricia Highsmith's thrillers inspired Hitchcock, Minghella and now Phyllis Nagy. Why? By David Benedict

Death does wonders for an author's career. That may sound horribly cynical, but in the case of Patricia Highsmith, it's true in every sense. Following her death in 1985, adapters have been snapping up her 25 or so novels. Yet while she was alive, death or, more specifically, murder stalked her thrillingly obsessive prose which pulls off the astonishing trick of holding readers in a vice-like grip of apprehension and terror while simultaneously shattering all the rules of crime fiction.

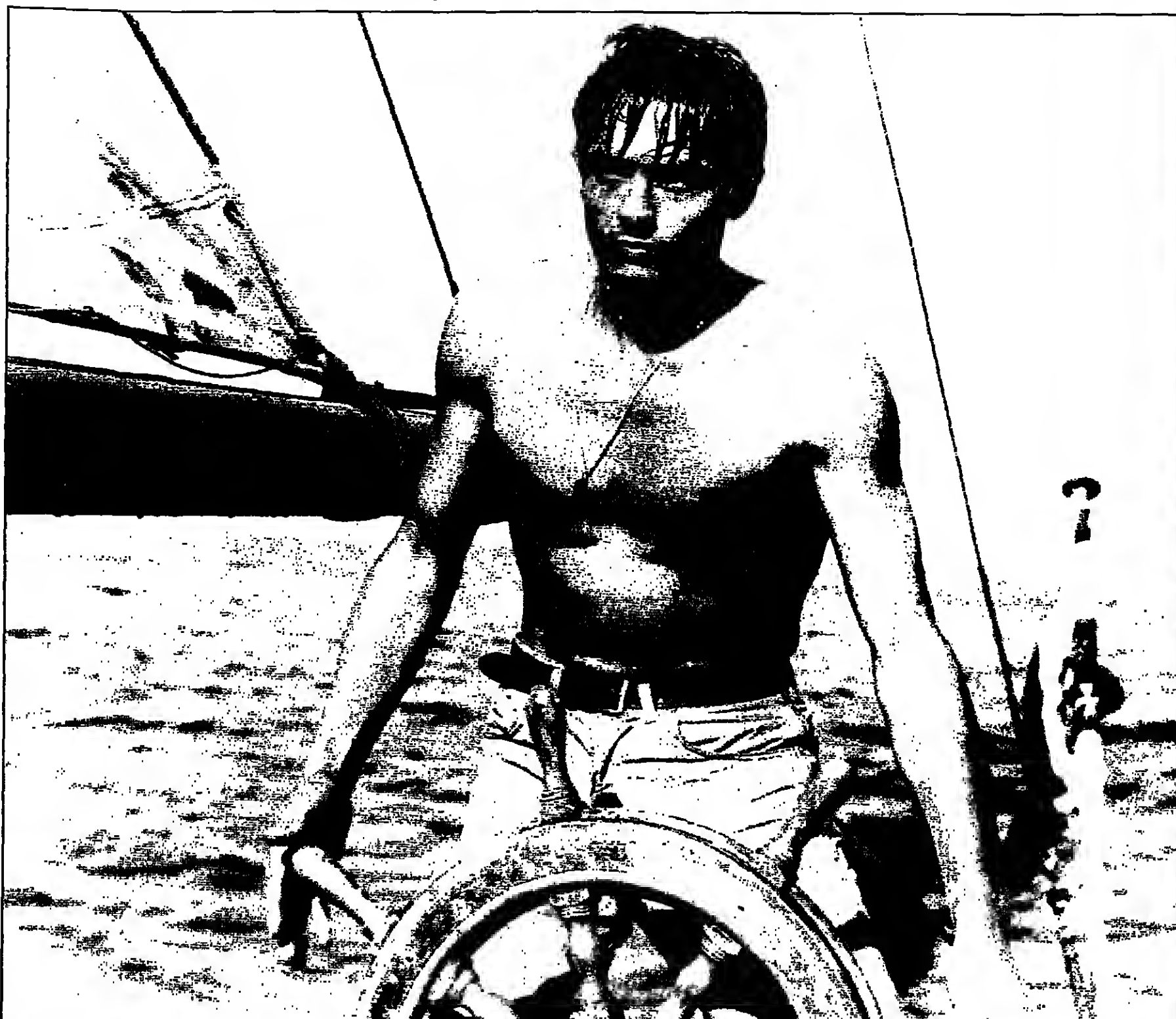
Graham Greene praised her unique vision of "a world claustrophobic and irrational which we enter each time with a sense of personal danger... It is not the world as we once believed we knew it, but it is frighteningly more real to us than the house next door". That goes a long way towards explaining her popularity with filmmakers. In the late Seventies Wim Wenders tried to buy the rights to all her future work. Notoriously canny, she refused, probably because she had little time for his 1977 film *The American Friend* which conflated her novels *Ripley Under Ground* and *Ripley's Game* and featured a wholly miscast Dennis Hopper. Not to mention the fact that she'd been stung before.

Alfred Hitchcock read her first novel *Strangers on a Train* upon its publication in 1949 and instructed his agent to buy the rights without mentioning his name. It cost him just \$7,500. He paid Raymond Chandler \$2,500 a week to adapt it - and then slung out virtually everything he'd written. The film resurrected his then sagging career and has remained near the top of the Hitchcock heap ever since. (A new print is being shown at the London Film Festival in November.) It further inspired two radio versions, a dreadful remake with the giveaway B-movie title *Once You Kiss A Stranger* and the Danny De Vito comedy-thriller *Throw Momma From the Train*.

Although Hitchcock's film did Highsmith no harm, it is a bastardisation of her book. The beautifully constructed theme of guilt chimed perfectly with Hitchcock's obsessions, but as she said to playwright Phyllis Nagy: "They didn't make the film of the book". She's right. In the original, two neo trade murders to make them motiveless and undetectable and get away with it. In the film, only one character is murdered and the killer is caught. That turns the men into simple opposites, good and bad, thereby removing all the compelling moral complexity which is the key to Highsmith's writing.

And, until now, that has been the story with subsequent dramatisations including Chabrol's strangely rapid version of *The Cry of the Owl* which is about a peeping Tom, who makes himself known to the object of his desire, and reduces the book to an arid series of plot manoeuvres.

There are rumours of a forthcoming stage adaptation of *Strangers on a Train* and the attachment of gay director Sean Mathias to the project will probably



Alain Delon in René Clément's 'Plein Soleil': 'my perfect Ripley,' declared the author at the time, before revising her opinion

flesh out its underlying homoeroticism, a central feature in every one of the books. That unsettling tension is most clearly expressed through the character of Tom Ripley who appears in five Highsmith novels, beginning with the best, *The Talented Mr Ripley* (1965), which Anthony Minghella is now shooting with Matt Damon in the title role playing opposite Jude Law. Ripley will resurface via Rupert Everett in Mike Newell's movie *Ripley's Game*, but Nagy has got there first. She's now writing a film of *Found in the Street* for John Malkovich, has already delivered the script for Channel Four's film of Highsmith's lesbian novel *Carol* and tomorrow night her stage version of *The Talented Mr Ripley* - starring John Padden - begins previewing in Watford.

Apart from her skills as a dramatist, Nagy is the perfect choice. She met Highsmith in 1987 when she was a researcher on *The New York Times*. At that point all she'd written was an early draft of *Butterfly Kiss* but "everyone knew I wanted to be a playwright. My editor wanted a piece on Greenwood, a famous cemetery in Brooklyn where, among others, Lola Montez, the Steinway family and various gangsters are buried. They wanted a well-known crime writer to walk round it." When Ruth Rendell proved unavailable, Nagy suggested Highsmith.

On the long ride out to Greenwood, Highsmith only broke the

wordless journey by grilling her with three terse questions: Did Nagy like O'Neill, Tennessee Williams and Sam Shepard? "We took the tour in silence and had a guided tour of the crematorium and were invited to put our hands in the still warm oven. We were treated to the gigantic blender full of human

Patricia Highsmith took out a hip-flask of scotch and said: 'I don't know about you but I need a drink.' It was like a challenge, so I took it... and from that moment we were fast friends.



bones... it was a pretty ghastly experience. We got outside and it was about 11am and she took out a hip flask of scotch and said: 'I don't know about you but I need a drink.' It was like a challenge, so I took it. Next she invited me for lunch, which consisted of nothing but Budweiser, and from that moment we were fast friends."

Nagy maintains that these literally unputdownable page-turners are remarkable for their absence of

plot. "You could tell the basic Ripley story in 60 pages: a man goes to Italy to bring back a friend, winds up involved in murder and we wait to see if he gets away with it. The rest is all about guilt, its absence and its effects." She acknowledges the narrative devices which propel the reader forward but believes it's the

broken box-office records for a foreign language film on its recent re-release. When it was made, Highsmith declared its star Alain Delon, to be "my perfect Ripley", an opinion she revised when she saw another actor playing her seductive, sexually and morally ambiguous hero for the purposes of a South Bank Show profile.

The actor was Jonathan Kent, now better known as the joint artistic director of the Almeida. As a 12-year-old he'd seen *Plein Soleil* three times and then devoured the novels. Upon meeting Highsmith, he too became a friend. "She was a curious woman, in both senses. Extraordinarily contained. It was difficult to predict her reaction to anything."

He points out that Ripley draws on *The Ambassadors* by Henry James, a writer she loved. "He wrote about the corruption of the new world by the old: terrible things happen to Americans in Europe."

"Ripley mirrors its plot about the scion of a WASP family who goes to Europe with people being sent to get him back." However, he agrees with Nagy that the plotting is utterly secondary. "They have a flat narration of events. She absolutely gives you the driving sense of 'what happens next?' but her potency is that she doesn't get emotionally involved. The tone is unaffected. That's what makes it good dramatic material."

For Nagy, Highsmith's deceptively simple style masks a complexity which comes from a pure

interest in morality which doesn't take a position. "How does one murder? She is clearly struggling to come to terms with what that means. Her pathological repulsion towards ordinary human behaviour and an ambivalence about sexuality provides a clear, chilling path for the reader. All the characters have a great yearning and a curious attitude towards relationships: 'I want it... but don't give it to me, ever. The moment they get it, it's no good.'"

Ripley's central preoccupation with impersonation might be seen as unstageable, but Nagy disagrees and focuses upon the internal element. "Basically, it works via Ripley talking to himself."

"Dramatisations have to pick up on these undramatised episodes. It's not about plot, it's about getting into the corners of the book which suggest opening out without inventing."

Her technically audacious but intensely faithful adaptation is similar to the idea of a set of musical variations. "There's a theme you have to go with and then you build the variations from references in the text and you recreate the novelistic structure through fluidity. However good, most times when you watch an adaptation you feel you're watching a novel on stage. The challenge is to make it into a play."

The Talented Mr Ripley previews at Watford Palace Theatre from 2 Oct to 24 Oct (01923-225671)

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

IT'S NOT hard to see why Primitive Science was commissioned to provide one of the curtain-raisers for the 1998 British Festival of Visual Theatre. During the company's brief, unfunded life, which almost came to an end last October, it has acquired a loyal following and a reputation for a visually emphatic, intelligent brand of devised work.

It also knows how to be youthfully irreverent: the programmes for last year's *Hunger* were customised tins of tomatoes. Last week, at the Purcell Room, audiences for *Half Machine* were presented with toy water-pistols.

Unfortunately, that gimmick may have been the only thing they took away from this obscure piece.

A sly aphorism in the programme warns that: "The secret protects itself, it is found only in the spirit and the practice of the work." Judging by the mutterings afterwards, though, that spirit was elusive.

On stage, there was much to enchant: in the first half, a grey-suited man (Patrick Driver) wandered round a sparse domestic interior furnished with four identical standard-lamps. Unlikely items were produced - a goldfish bowl, a set of scales, a blackboard - and pondered at length. He broke into a mournful rendition of "These Are a Few of My Favourite Things". A dance instructor appeared, and they performed a few synchronised steps. On either side, a pianist and trumpet-player contributed a live, jittery soundtrack.

But it was the commentary provided by another actor off-stage that demanded most of our attention. Delivered in a deadpan monotone, it articulated the reclusive's preoccupation with silence.

But the speechifying, particularly in the portentious, static second half, during which a naked man emerged from a heap of corpses in an ornamental garden, and slowly ransacked them, seemed calculated to annoy - did so much need to be said to describe isolation? "My story, as stories go, lacks variety. No one ever goes anywhere or does anything," ran the commentary, a line rather too Beckett-conscious.

At least, though, the cast-members knew how to deliver tonelessness on tap. The main problem with Joe Harman's production of Beckett's rarely performed, exquisite three-handers *Play*, at Riverside Studios, is that his actors - particularly James Simmonds' adulterous M - inject far too much intonation into what should be an uninflected text.

Tongues will continue to wag for quite a while, too, at the decision to sack on Duma Ndlovu's *The Ritual* - an amateur, if heartless, attempt at self-help for post-Apartheid South Africa. A double-bill suitable only for people with multiple personalities.

The British Festival of Visual Theatre, to 27 October at the Young Vic, BAC and South Bank Centre (0171-223 2223); *Play/The Ritual*, Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111) to 11 October

Best to keep mum with the dead

SHIRLEY VALENTINE jabbered away to her compliant confidante, the kitchen wall. Alison, the heroine of *Mum*, a new play by the celebrated comedian, Ronnie Barker, natters non-stop to her dead mother. In one sense, she's keeping mum, but, by God, she isn't in the other. A lonely cleaner in her mid-thirties, thought of as "just another attachment to the Hoover", she yaks on for the company of her own voice. Which introduces the perennial problem of how you present dreary, limited lives without producing limited and dreary art. Let's just put it this way: after seeing *Mum*, you don't feel that Beckett or Alan Bennett need look over-anxiously to their laurels.

Barker has been open about writing the piece as a vehicle for his daughter, Charlotte, whose career has apparently hit a sticky patch. This news is sad because I've seen Ms Barker give some impressive performances. Appearing pudgy like her father, to whom she bears a

THEATRE
MUM
KING'S HEAD THEATRE
LONDON

strong resemblance, she comes over as one of nature's Sonyas (in *Uncle Vanya*) - plucky, plain, lovelorn, and stoical. But I've also witnessed her in quite chilling form as Mary, that adolescent lingo in gingham in Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour*. These plays, saw her rising to the material: in *Mum*, I'm afraid, it's a question of her rising above it, a feat she achieves briefly in the second half.

Alison is on stage the whole time, with just two interruptions from ghostly visitants (clumsily handled both in the writing and in Dan Crawford's production). First, she's confronted by the drunken, feckless father (David Sterne) she loathed, who reveals he was forced into a bleak, loveless marriage by her mother's pregnancy. Then, efficiently piling on the pain, in pops



Charlotte Barker, daughter of Ronnie, puffs on behalf of freedom Sean Dempsey/PA

young soldier Bob (David Maybrick), the love of her life who was killed before they could marry. After some initial memory problems, this revelation soon obliterates Alison's precious belief that she was once special to someone with a

punishingly detailed recall of his other girlfriends. "Why did you have to tell me this?" she strickenly asks. For no other reason than that Bob is a crude contrivance for upping the anguish. At the start, I thought this was going to be the sort of play

where Mary would turn out to have murdered her beloved mother-cum-obsessive sounding board. Then I began to hope the mother would suddenly materialise in her chair and cordially throttle Alison for making the afterlife purgatory with all that

banal prattling. The lack of humour in this chatter is, given the author, the most mystifying aspect of the evening. You'll get some idea of the excitement-level when I disclose that the first half ends with Alison about to make some crucial revelation to her mother and then breaking off because she's got to race to the library to return some books on which she'd otherwise heaped. It sends you out for your interval drink scarcely able to speak with the tension.

There are weird patches in the script, too, where you get the sense that it's the author talking rather than the character. Anti-smoking fascism comes in for quite a bashing, with Alison professing the view that the more democracy we have, the less freedom we enjoy. She also launches into a riff about the tyranny of silence in public libraries. Silence? Public libraries? My local is a mecca for mobile-phone addicts. Oddly dated, "Mum" is not the word. PAUL TAYLOR

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie

in a brand new version by Fay Weldon, adapted from the novel by Muriel Spark

Fiona Shaw a funny and poignant Miss Brodie from an actress undoubtedly in her prime. Book by David Tennant

"TRULY REMARKABLE"

Independent

Supporters

The Royal Bank

of Scotland

Lyndhurst Theatre, Tomorrow, Fri 2, Mon 3, Tues 6 & Thurs 8 Oct at 7.30pm, Sat 3 & Wed 4 Oct at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing

NT Royal National Theatre Box Office 0171-432 3000 www.rnt.org.uk

The shock for the new

As students take up their college places, the realities of finance have to be faced up to. By John Andrew

Thousands of parents will receive a sharp financial jolt in the coming weeks. As the euphoria of their offspring's achievement ining a university place fades, the reality of funding aid through a degree course on the horizon. Parents who studied in the Seventies cannot draw on their own excess, for the way in which education is funded has been altered. Grants are far more generous, and although students are available to all, the amount of state funding for a year's freshers falls considerably short of the costs of taking a course. Although there is no magic wand to make the shortfall vanishing, it is possible to relieve some of the financial shocks before the regatta. This can be achieved by working up a budget. This should be a meeting of minds - you will date the financial pressure on your son or daughter will experience, whereas he or she will appreciate that financial help from home has its limits. A student's largest outlay is for accommodation. Because of differences in rents, the only way forward is for your son or daughter to telephone the university accommodation officer and at the typical cost of the variations available locally - live-in, halls, digs, or sharing a student house. While the type of accommodation is a matter of personal choice, availability is also a determining factor. Having established the cost of accommodation, the rest is fairly a matter of slotting in place. Tuition fees, local travel costs, laundry, toiletries, entertainment, insurance, and clothing are all factors to consider. Books, and possibly a bicycle, will also be needed. Reading lists will arrive before the start of term. However, it is necessary to purchase every listed book, if any, that will be required for the course. Every student, regardless of parents' income, may also take the stage of a student loan. The amount depends on where they are



Today's students and their parents face an early lesson in budgeting for the costs of several years of further education

living during the term: London, £3,145; provinces, £2,735; and parental home at any location, £2,325. Inevitably, the two sides of the equation will not balance. Parents are under no legal obligation to fund their offspring, but it is rare, although not unknown, for a contribution not to be forthcoming. The amount you contribute will obviously depend on your circumstances. Moreover, the timing of the expenditure and your income may not coincide. Inevitably, the beginning of a term is the most expensive. Rent usually has to be paid in

advance, books have to be purchased and fares paid. Most parents usually make a monthly contribution to their offspring's expenses to coincide with the receipt of their income. If it is not possible for you to make a larger sum available at the beginning of term, it makes sense for your son or daughter to bridge the gap by taking advantage of the interest-free overdraft facility included in all of the banks' student packages. Do remember that the overdraft has to be arranged before the account is overdrawn. If, over the academic year, your son or daughter's funding falls

seriously short of the estimated expenditure, there are ways of resolving matters. The obvious one is to re-examine the budget to see if economies can be made. Increasingly, students are working during term, as well as in vacations, to supplement their income. Their earnings do not affect the level of their grant, or entitlement to a student loan. Working eight hours or so a week is unlikely to be detrimental to their studies. You may decide to borrow funds. However, doing this so that your son or daughter does not have to do so, does not make sense, as it is far

better for them to take advantage of the cheap credit available to them by way of an overdraft or student loan. You can always assist with repayments later. However, if you do decide to borrow, it is less expensive to have some form of revolving loan facility, secured as a first or second mortgage on your home, than to run an overdraft. Both parents and students are entering the unknown when the first sixth-former in the family starts a degree course. The last thing that they will want is a lecture on how to budget. However, it is prudent to introduce the subject of money

management, not in a dictatorial way, but diplomatically. By working on their budget as a family project, future financial shocks, and the resulting acrimony, can be avoided. The Department for Education and Employment has published *Financial Support for Students - A Guide to Grants, Loans and Fees in Higher Education in 1998/99*. It includes a section on access funds for students in financial difficulties, and outlines additional financial help which may be available - for example, from local charities. Call 0800 731 9133

THE COST OF BEING A STUDENT

The NUS estimates that the average student will be left with a shortfall between income from grants and loans and expenditure of £1,710 (£1,927 in London).

They base this on a first year student starting a three year course this academic year who is on full grant, liable for full tuition fees and studying for 38 weeks a year. Sources for the survey include the NUS accommodation cost survey for 1997/98 and average gas and electricity charges for four people sharing a three-bedroomed house. Entertainment includes newspapers, refreshments and the costs of going out.

INCOME	
	£
Grant	1,225
Loan	3,145
Total	4,370
Fees	1,000

EXPENDITURE	
	£
Rent	2,340
Fuel	130
Food/Smidries	1,203
Laundry	97
Insurance	82
Clothes	201
Travel	70
Books/Equipment	443
Leisure	721
Total	6,297

SHORTFALL	
	£
	1,927
	1,710

If you want to protect your business, think ahead

OFTEN THE work of a financial planner extends beyond advising simply on personal financial planning matters. Many clients run their own businesses. This means that as well as having the typical personal financial planning issues we all face, they also have to deal with their company's corporate financial planning. This is illustrated by the meeting I recently had with Tim.

Tim has been a client of ours for a number of years. He is in his late thirties, and owns and runs a small but very successful computer consultancy company, employing five people. Our previous meetings had focused on starting his retirement planning and building a portfolio of investments.

At a recent review meeting, Tim explained that the opportunity had arisen for his company to purchase a similar local computer company. He had made preliminary inquiries with his bank, which had indicated that it would be willing to lend him the company's funds required. To protect its position, however, in addition to a personal guarantee, it would require a loan protection policy to be effected. Tim was not clear what the bank meant.

What the bank requires is a life assurance policy to be put in place on Tim's life. In the event of his premature death the funds would be available to repay the outstanding loan. This is often required when the lender wishes to strengthen its own security, or it is lending to a new or small company.

The benefits of having such an arrangement are that should Tim die before the loan is repaid, his company would have the funds available to clear the loan, helping it to continue trading. The bank will not be forced to call on Tim's personal guarantee of the loan to make up any shortfall - thereby enabling his estate to be left intact for the beneficiaries of his will.

Such policies are appropriate to all types of business

THE FIXERS



JAMES BRUCE

structure, be they sole traders, partnerships or companies, where there are loans from a financial institution. Such loans may be for items of capital expenditure (as in Tim's case) or simply to cover the agreed overdraft facility.

"Is it going to be expensive?" Tim asked. I explained that the cost of suitable cover depended upon a number of factors, primarily governed by the amount and repayment period of the loan itself. Tim indicated that he was still finalising his negotiations for the purchase and anticipated that the company would need to borrow £75,000 which, if all went to plan, would be repaid after 15 years.

There are a number of different types of life assurance policy that Tim could use to cover this risk. All, however, provide a lump sum on the death of the life assured, in exchange for a regular premium payment. I explained the option of a term assurance policy. This is one of the simplest and cheapest means of obtaining life cover. It provides a known sum on the death of the person whose life is assured, within the term of the policy. The sum assured and the term are selected at the outset. There is no investment element, so the cost of obtaining the life cover is relatively low.

Premium rates on such policies have fallen in recent years. This is due to a combination of factors, including the competi-

tiveness of the market, as well as an over-estimate in the Eighties of the impact of AIDS on the mortality rate. Given that such products are mainly selected on the basis of price, it is worth contacting an independent financial adviser to compare the premium rates of a number of different providers. In Tim's case, the premium for a suitable term assurance policy ranged from £14 to £19.85 per month.

The tax position of the policy premiums and benefits depend upon a number of factors, including whether the policy is effected by the individual, and whether it is on their own life or by the company itself. If the policy were to be effected by the company, we would advise Tim on how to approach his inspector of taxes, for clarification concerning the taxation of the premiums and the policy proceeds. Normally, if the purpose of the policy is to repay a debt, premiums cannot be offset against corporation tax. As a general rule, if tax relief is not

allowable on premiums, the proceeds are not taxable.

Tim contacted me about a month after our meeting. His negotiations for the purchase of the second company had been successfully completed and the borrowings from the bank had been secured. The cover he required was therefore put into force. For the modest monthly premium of £14, the financial security of his company, as well as his increased workforce, are protected in the event of Tim's premature death. The bank has the security it requires in order to make the loan. Finally, Tim's estate is protected from having to make good any shortfall to the bank as a result of his personal guarantee on the loan.

James Bruce is senior financial planner at Corporate and Personal Planning, a fee-based firm of independent financial advisers. The address is Highwoods Square, Highwoods, Colchester, Essex CO4 4BB (01206 853888)

Surrendering your policy? If it's a with-profits endowment policy, there is an alternative. Neville James. We pay more.

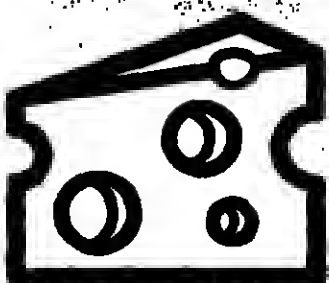
- Top prices for suitable policies
- Prompt valuations, firm offers
- Professional, specialist staff

7 days a week, 8am-8pm

PLEASE CALL NOW ON
01243 52 00 00
OR FAX ON
01243 52 00 01
YOUR POLICY MUST BE
AT LEAST 8 YEARS OLD

Neville
JAMES

Neville James Limited,
Forum Integrations, West Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TB
Neville James is regulated by the Financial Services Authority



One account is a bank account but not as we know it.

The Virgin One account has everything you expect from a current account. Cheque book, overdraft facility, access to over 20,000 cash machines. Visa card, 24 hour telephone service. Standing orders and Direct debits. Monthly statements. All the usual stuff.

What you don't get is the usual bank stuff. We put everything from your current account to your mortgage and from your savings to your credit cards in one place, with one competitive mortgage rate of interest. We calculate interest daily and let you pay in money whenever you want with no charges or penalties. That way your money is working flat out all the time to reduce your loan and the interest you have to pay on it. You can take the money out again whenever you want to spend on your terms. No questions asked.

If you have, or are about to have, a mortgage of at least £50,000, then give us a call on 08456 000 001 to find out if we're right for you. The Virgin One account is a new facility. It's an initial change.



08456 000 001

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

To sort out the rest of your finances, call Virgin Direct on 0345 93 93 93 for PEPs, Pensions & Life Cover.

The Virgin One account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. The One account must be repaid by the time you retire. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. You can phone for further information at any time. You must be aged 18 or over. Life Insurance is required. The actual rate of interest you pay will depend on the amount of money you want to borrow in relation to the value of your home. For example, if you wanted to borrow £50,000 secured against a home worth £110,000, you would pay 6.7% (this will be the rate on 01.10.99 subject to further base rate changes). Based on this example, over 25 years a customer remortgaging a freehold home in England would pay 9.1% APR. The rate is variable. This APR includes land registration fees and our solicitor's and valuer's fees which you will have to pay. In this example these fees would amount to £425. You will also have to pay your own solicitor's fees. In calculating the APR we have assumed you will pay your solicitor £100. All calls are recorded and monitored. The Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Discovery House, 12, Church St, Norwich, NR4 6LZ. Representative only of Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for life insurance, pensions and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct Marketing Group. Examples of what you may be paying if you organize your finances all over the place are Barclaycard Standard APR 22.9% (unsecured); Lloyds Bank Unsecured Personal Loan APR 21.9% and Natwest Credit Zone Overdraft APR 25% (assuming overdraft of £1,000, monthly interest rate of 1.38% and monthly fee of £5). Source: Moneyfacts, August, 1998.

08456 000 001

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Telephone lines are operated by National Westminster Home Loans Limited. Calls may be monitored for training purposes. Credit is available to persons aged 18 or over and subject to normal conditions. Mortgage loans are available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited, 41 Leithway, London EC2P 2BP. Security and insurance are required. Written quotations are available from National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Leithway, London EC2P 2BP. National Westminster Bank plc represents only the NatWest and Commercial Mortgages Group for its insurance, pensions, unit trusts and other regulated collective investment schemes. All members of the Mortgage Group are regulated by both the Financial Investment Authority and FIMCO (except for unit trusts). The Financial Life Assurance Unit is only regulated by the Financial Investment Authority for investment in the United Kingdom. Where a mortgage is secured on a property in the London Stock Exchange and is regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority, The "Best Bank Award" was issued by "Your Mortgage" magazine and was judged by an independent panel of 100 mortgage lenders. The "Best West-End Lender" Award was issued by "Your Mortgage" magazine. It has been awarded jointly to us and Bank of Scotland. Mortgages available in England, Scotland and Wales only. Ref: 12290

EUROPEAN ASSISTANT FUND MANAGER

Salary circa £45,000 + benefits City

Our client is seeking to recruit a bright, self-motivated individual with professional experience and qualifications for its European Equities team. This position involves frequent travel to Europe.

The Role

- You will be involved in supporting the team, specifically in the following areas:
- analysis of companies, including interviews with senior management
- research into various sectors and making recommendations for buying/selling stocks
- presentations, both oral and in the format of written reports
- interaction with clients and managing funds

You will need IMC and IIMR qualifications, although our client will provide study support to the right candidate without these qualifications.

To apply, please write enclosing full CV to: Claire Probyn, Kingsbourne Advertising, Salisbury House, Bluecoats, Herford SG14 1PU. Please note that all applications will be forwarded to our client unopened.

KINGSBOURNE ADVERTISING



FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

London, Shrewsbury, Spalding, Northern Ireland (Ballymena), Taunton, Sheffield, Mansfield, Wellingborough, Newtown (Mid Wales), Stafford, Banbury and Llandudno

£20,000 Basic + Bonus + Car

Our client is a large mutual company with an enviable reputation for staff retention. Only candidates with a good sales track record and full FPC need apply. In return a rewarding career and excellent leads are on offer.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

London, Home Counties, Kent, Windsor, Northampton, Bristol, W&E Midlands, Cornwall, Leeds

To £30,000 Basic + Bonus

Opportunities exist nationwide for successful salespeople. We also have self-employed vacancies which would suit either sole proprietors who are struggling with compliance and administration or go-getters who want to become IFAs. Full FPC essential.

COMPLIANCE
to £25,000

City & Nationwide

If you are an experienced Compliance auditor, pension reviewer or a salesperson with some compliance experience send us your CV now! We have a number of vacancies with quality life and pensions organisations.

Contact Jon Worthy or David Llewellyn

GENERAL MANAGER

25000+ Benefits
LONDON
International trading company requires a highly experienced individual, preferably an engineering graduate and/or MBA, to head its UK operations. The successful candidate shall have at least 8/10 years technical/commercial experience related to the international trade of minerals, ferro alloys, steel, coal and coke. Reporting to the Chairman, your responsibilities will include managing the company's trading activities, including shipping, banking and finance. We are looking for an ambitious individual with a proven track record, and an in-depth knowledge of the steel industry, in the Far East, China and the Indian sub-continent. A working knowledge of Hindi would also be useful. Please send your CV to:
Ms Eva Smith at 2 Savoy Court, London WC2R 0ET

International Bank requires Financial Controller

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing daily, weekly and monthly P&L for various currencies; analysis of risk positions; P&L results and trading strategies and reporting to Senior Management; Accounts reconciliation; Control and review of expenditure over budgets and variance analysis. A minimum degree level education, 3/4 years accounting experience with one of the top six and ACA or equivalent are all essential. The salary offered is commensurate to experience. If you possess the necessary skills for this role, please send your C.V. to P.O. Box 21015B, Islington, London N1 1WS.

Qualified Watch Technician/Designer

Required with minimum 10 years experience in design, repair and technical drawings of watches retail, manufacture and assembly. Knowledge and experience of suppliers within Hong Kong essential. Ability to speak Mandarin desirable. Applications by CV to Mr Tony Price, Metstone Ltd, 29 Highbridge Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 5QB

We are looking for someone who
can paint by numbers!



Chief Accountant

£30,600 - £32,685

plus Essential User Car Allowance

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious career minded professional with the ability to both see, and illustrate, the wider picture of public sector finances, to join a forward thinking, well structured local authority at third tier level.

With your management experience in local government finance and accountancy, you will lead a team dedicated to the provision of high quality financial services whilst your technical and analytical ability will allow you to provide financial facts and sound advice to senior officers and political members.

You will be a full member of CIPFA or other CCAB recognised body, and possess the personal attributes of determination and confidence tempered with the social skills essential for good leadership.

For an informal discussion contact Mike Bersley on 01582 474050 or John Riddick on 474047.

Closing date: 12 October 1998

Application forms and job descriptions available from

The Personnel Section, South Bedfordshire District Council, The District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds LU6 1LF

Please quote Ref: CA1. We cannot accept CVs.

opportunities in our community



Senior Admin Officer with a flair for Finance

£21,042 - £22,203 Inc.

The Special Needs Section of Education is responsible for processing statutory assessments and statements for children with special educational needs.

We are looking for an experienced administrative officer with a demonstrable record in financial management to maintain and develop our special needs systems.

Your main responsibilities will include processing recruitment claims, preparing and reporting on the special school budget, the individual support budget, the transport budget and also managing an administrative assistant.

You should have experience of local authority and school financial procedures, experience of using information technology and operating a range of computerised financial systems.

This is a challenging appointment and you should be able to organise and prioritise your own work within a busy working environment. A CIPFA part qualified/ accounting technician qualification or equivalent experience will be expected. You should also have a high level of communication skills and the ability to supervise staff.

For further information and an application form please telephone or write to Esada Doyle, Assessment Manager, Directorate of Education, Special Educational Needs Section, Riverside House, High Street, Woolwich, London SE18 6DF. Telephone: 0181 309 8127. Closing date 2 October 1998.

Alternatively, email us at ges-jobs@greenwich.gov.uk clearly indicating the appointment of interest, and the address to which the application pack should be sent.

Visit Greenwich at: www.greenwich.gov.uk

GREENWICH COUNCIL WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



Education
Service



the millennium borough

ASSISTANT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT LONDON W1 £25,000+ STUDY PACKAGE

We are a high profile Leisure Company with exciting plans for the future. This is a new position created by growth offering an opportunity for a motivated Part Qualified Accountant ACCA/CIMA seeking long term committed career role.

Your areas of responsibility will be preparing Monthly Management Accounts to strict deadlines, assisting with the preparation of Statutory Accounts and deputising for the Management Accountant which will include staff supervision. Previous spreadsheet expertise along with Good Communication Skills will be a key area in our search, as strong liaison role with Directors and Senior Managers.

Our appointment is being handled exclusively by FT Partnership, please send a full Curriculum Vitae to Steven Torode, 32 Raphaels, Parklands, Lee Chapel North, Essex SS15 5EA or Telephone 01268 286113 or Fax 01268 271543.

"INTERVIEWS HELD IN LONDON"

"YOUR PRIOR PERMISSION WILL ALWAYS BE REQUESTED BEFORE YOUR DETAILS ARE SENT TO CLIENTS"



M&P Mann & Partners

Advocates
Solicitors
Attorneys

Life of Man
International

Belgrave House
Ordnance Road
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM99 2EN

Phone 01624 822221
Fax 01624 822222
email law@belgravehouse.com
website <http://www.belgravehouse.com>

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Mann & Partners seeks an Advocate, Solicitor or Barrister with a minimum of two years relevant post qualification experience to join its Commercial Department. Based in Douglas, Isle of Man, he or she will be required to work on a full-time basis in the firm's major international client base, liaising with its principal office in Douglas. Sound knowledge of company and commercial law and practical experience of Anglo-Saxon trusts are required. He or she will be encouraged to develop original ideas and devise creative solutions to clients' problems and will also have responsibility for harmonising the practices of the client's various group offices so as to ensure continued adherence to worldwide and local regulatory requirements. The lawyer's role would encompass these areas as part of a broad range of in-house responsibilities.

International travel is involved. Foreign languages, particularly Italian, would be an advantage.

Excellent Partnership prospects exist with Mann & Partners for the successful candidate who is a member of the Mann Bar or who wishes to re-qualify in the Isle of Man.

A highly competitive salary commensurate with the current commercial legal market in the Isle of Man is offered. Please send a Curriculum Vitae in the first instance to the Firm's Practice Manager, Mr Murray Lambden.

WORKING IN THE CITY?

If you are currently working in the Square Mile and fancy broadening your horizons this Autumn, don't miss The City Career Forum.

Established as the leading recruitment exhibition in the City of London, The City Career Forum has been instrumental in helping countless workers improved their job prospects and boost their earning power. This informal exhibition offers you the opportunity to speak to recruitment experts about your skills and marketability and learn about the hundreds of vacancies available in the City - some of which never reach the job pages. Whether you are involved in Banking, Accountancy, Insurance, Financial Management, I.T. or office support, The City Career Forum is the perfect event to help you climb the career ladder. Set in the elegant and historic Gibson Hall in the heart of the City, it is convenient to visit during the day, at lunchtime or after work, and is only minutes away by bus or tube. So if you need some specific career advice, are looking for your next contract or seeking that job of a lifetime, come and spend a couple of hours at The City Career Forum - it could prove to be the best investment you make this year.

★ Wednesday 14th October 1998

★ Gibson Hall, 13 Bishopsgate EC2 - situated on the corner of Bishopsgate and Threadneedle Street, (Nearest tubes: Bank and Liverpool St)

★ Open 9am - 7pm

★ Refreshments available

★ Admission Free

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Salary range: £13,000 - £15,400 pa



With over 400 staff, 1 million visitors a year, and major tourist attractions at four sites we are the national museum of 20th century conflict. We require an enthusiastic, organised and customer-focused Personnel Assistant to join our busy department.

As the main contact point for a group of Departments within the Museum, you will provide a whole range of personnel services including: organising the recruitment of new staff, input of monthly payroll, monitoring sick absence, issuing and recording appraisal forms, and responding to requests from line managers for advice and information on basic employment law, contracts and other staffing issues. You will also be responsible for ensuring all records and files are up to date and accurate.

You will need to be at ease with figures, computer-literate, preferably with experience in Word and Excel, and educated to at least A-level standard or equivalent. You will also have excellent written and interpersonal skills, and be able to manage and organise your time and work effectively.

Benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme, a generous leave allowance and an interest free season ticket loan scheme.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter quoting your current salary to: Michelle Gubbins, Personnel Manager, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ by Friday 9 October. For a detailed job description, please send an A5 SAE to the above address.

We regret that we are unable to reply to all applicants individually. If you have not heard from us within 3 weeks of the closing date, you should assume your application has been unsuccessful.

The Imperial War Museum is committed to a policy of Equal Opportunities.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK requires

CONTROL ASSOCIATE

to work within the South African Emerging Markets. Responsibilities will include undertaking in-depth analysis of companies listed on the Johannesburg stock exchange, dealing with South African Banks and Traders, advising on investment issues in South Africa and liaising with regulatory authorities. The successful candidate will possess a minimum degree level education, ideally be a Qualified Accountant and possess 5 or 4 years experience within the finance markets of South Africa. Fluency in Afrikaans essential and contacts in the market place would also be invaluable. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the required skills please send your CV to:
PO Box No. 8210162, Islington, London, N1 2SQ.

Financial Services is a
growing market with a future.
Would you like to be part of it?



If you are aged over 25, and want to become part of one of the most successful branches in the country, Kew Gardens has the right opportunity for you. Please call Richard King on 0181 568 8755.

AbbeyLife

INTERNATIONAL BANK requires

HEAD OF EUROPEAN HIGH YIELD TRADING

Responsibilities will include managing the department's activities, market making, negotiating and executing high yield deals and developing long term business strategies and initiatives. The successful candidate will possess a minimum degree level education together with a minimum 5 years senior level experience within investment banking. The salary offered is substantial and is commensurate with experience. If you possess the necessary skills and experience required for this role please send your CV to:
PO Box No. 7810182, Islington, London, N1 2SQ.

AUSTRALIAN SALES

We are major European Bank with offices worldwide and is a growing presence in the global market place.

The ideal candidate will have at least 5 years experience in the Australian Equity sales market, have established contacts within Australia and UK financial institutions to help build on the Company's extensive worldwide network. Experience within a leading financial house in Australia and UK would be essential together with proven skills in Australia equity sales, account management and in depth knowledge of the Australian business market and companies. Applicants should be degree educated and computer literate.

Please send CV to EO Box No. 12853, 17th floor, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY

Require

A Business Analyst to take responsibility for the inception through to the implementation of major development projects. The successful candidate will be degree educated and possess a minimum three years business and management analysis experience. The salary offered is excellent and commensurate to experience. If you possess the necessary skills, please send your CV to P.O. Box 21015A, Islington, London N1 1WS.

0171 293 2222

Uniting our fragmented state bureaucracy is New Labour's 'big idea'. By Paul Gosling

Pulling power is here

Before the election, the Labour Party was thought to be looking for the "big idea" for its first term in office. While constitutional reforms are dominating the legislative programme, they probably do not capture the minds of voters as deprived estates in Hartlepool or Lambeth. Now, it seems, the big idea has emerged: "Joined-up government."

For too long, the argument goes, people have been pushed from the pillar to the post of the state system. No matter that details of a new birth have already been given to the Benefits Agency. They must still, separately, be given to the local council's housing, council tax benefits and housing benefits departments, plus the general practitioner and the Inland Revenue. The government that could connect the state's bureaucracy really might be onto something of a political winner.

We are beginning to see a raft of government initiatives aimed at precisely that outcome. There are a number of new bodies, such as the Social Exclusion Unit, the Performance Innovation Unit and the Cabinet Committee on Public Expenditure, that are directed at overcoming departmentalism. There is the appointment of Jack Cunningham as "Cabinet enforcer", with a remit to knock heads together to ensure that policies are delivered cross-departmentally. And there is the merger of the Cabinet Office and the Office of Public Service to ensure that policy formulation and delivery are overseen across government from one central point.

"There needs to be more emphasis on the corporate management of the civil service as a whole," said Tony Blair in a recent Parliamentary written answer, using words that could have - and probably did - come straight from the new Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson. "My objective," continued Blair, "is to meet the corporate objectives of the Government as a whole, rather than just the objectives of individual departments." A report by Sir Richard found departmentalism to be the weak element of government administration.

One of the results of this new approach has been a £150m fund launched last month by the Treas-



Jack Cunningham, the 'Cabinet enforcer' with a remit to knock heads together

Rui Xavier

sury, the Invest to Save Budget, "to promote joined-up government". "The aim of the ISB is to ensure public services are delivered in a more coherent way and that different parts of government work closer together," said Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Byers. "By breaking down barriers between government departments, we will be able to provide members of the public with a far better service."

Public bodies can apply to the ISB to fund innovative projects that assist a more co-ordinated approach. Good practice examples quoted have been the borough of Lewisham's one-stop shops that not only allow residents to enquire about any council service, but also ask the Benefits Agency about social

security problems, helping to integrate benefits provision. Brent borough has opened one-stop shops for all council queries, and is to create a call centre for telephone questions and an Internet site. While on the Internet, the self-employed can also complete a single electronic form that deals simultaneously with the Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise and the Contributions Agency.

Other examples of inter-agency good practice have been highlighted by the Audit Commission in its new report, "Promising Beginnings". One of the points made by the Commission is the benefits for the consumer in county and district councils sharing offices in remaining two-tier areas, as well as the financial savings and improved joint working for

the authorities themselves.

The most junior tier of local government can have its own role. The parish council of Bramshott and Liphook, in East Hampshire, operates a community office with grant support from the district and county councils. The office helps visitors to make contact with the right person in the larger authorities, and hosts surgeries conducted by council planners, the local housing association and Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Local government reorganisation was a spur to many county councils to improve relations with district authorities where two-tier local government has been retained. This has led to joint working protocols being agreed in several areas. Cambridgeshire has established

the "Further Improving the Three Tiers Group", bringing parish and town councils into the joint working loop. This has involved linking the county and some district councils' phone systems, which is also expected to cut phone bills. Website links have also been developed, bringing MPs, voluntary groups and councils together. Some officers have been seconded between county and district councils to increase co-operation.

Best Value - the Government-imposed scheme to raise standards across local authorities - is acting as an impetus to establish joint commissioning. In Sussex, the Tandridge, Brighton and Hove, and Wealden councils are to jointly procure IT systems. Baroness Dean, chair of the Housing Corporation, says that housing associations will be expected to jointly commission with local authorities in such matters as estate cleansing.

The CWOIL group of local authorities - Cambridge, Welwyn, Oxford, Ipswich and Lincoln - have come together to share good practice on Best Value, creating internal benchmarking standards. This has also allowed their local auditors, on behalf of the Audit Commission, to come together to decide how best to audit Best Value.

The think-tank Demos says that joined-up government will remain a focal point of the Government. While Labour was in opposition, Demos had argued strongly for the need for greater "connectivity" of public services, and current government policy may owe a lot to the appointment of former Demos director Geoff Mulgan to the Downing Street policy unit.

Current Demos director, Perri 6, believes that one of the future focal points may be the way executive agencies relate to the work of government departments, which has already led to the moving of the Contributions Agency from the remit of the Department of Social Security to its new, more logical connection with the Inland Revenue. The way some of the existing agencies work, argues Perri 6, get in the way of joined-up government by supporting departmentalism.

And as far as New Labour is concerned, there are few signs greater than departmentalism.

Bin-liners and champagne



THE TRADER

THERE'S A lot of rubbish talked about redundancy, especially by people who've never been on the receiving end. Take Norman's comment that firing me was as painful for him as for me. Funny, then, that I was the one snuffing into a sodden handkerchief as the security guard escorted me to personnel, the one feeling as if the world had suddenly stopped turning.

The man from personnel was little better. His attempts at empathy made me feel ill. How on earth could he think he knew how I felt, when I didn't even know? Any minute now, I thought, I'll wake up and everything will be fine again; that's how unreal it all seemed. The man from personnel was droning on and on about conditions, but I couldn't concentrate. Suddenly the droning stopped.

"How much are you taking in of this?" the man asked. I told him. "So, not even in one ear and out the other?" he said. "Well, it's all written down here anyway. Why don't I get you a cup of tea and leave you alone for a few minutes?" And he tiptoed off as if he were visiting a hospital.

I sat, numb and terribly, terribly rejected. All I could think was, how could they not want me? If Jane had been there with a crystal ball, she'd have pointed out that 53 other people from our bank would be feeling the same by the end of the day but she wasn't, so there was nothing to disturb my wallow in self-pity.

Still, after a few minutes I dried my eyes, and the words on the paper slowly came into sharper focus. One month's pay instead of notice... six months' salary, tax free... services of an outplacement agency... could keep car for two months, or buy on favourable terms. So I wasn't going to starve, at least.

The man from personnel came back with my tea and a plate of custard creams. "Here," he said, "this'll make you feel better." If only it were that simple. I mused, we'd save the

NHS loads of money, no more expensive drugs, just a packet of biscuits and a nice hot cup of tea. Only problem was, I didn't feel I could ever eat again. Perhaps I would starve after all.

"Would you like to call someone?" the man asked. "You're allowed to make a phone call." Just like being under arrest, I thought, but suddenly it did seem a good idea to speak to a friend. I started to dial Oliver's number, then remembered he was away on business. Then I realised it wasn't another City type I needed; I needed Sasha.

Sasha's mother and mine linked up at antenatal classes and have forced us to be friends ever since. She's terribly arty, and has friends who design jewellery and hate capitalism - although they are willing to compromise on the subject of private income. Anyway, right then Sasha and her trustafarian pals seemed just the ticket, so I put in the call and Sasha told me to leap into a taxi.

It was 30 minutes until the security guard arrived with the contents of my desk in a black bin-liner, and another 20 while he went back for my Psico 5 Series which Norman had mistaken for company property.

By the time I reached Sasha's she was in fine cheer. "Excellent news," she cried, hugging me and pouring a vast glass of champagne. "No more horrid trading."

"Yes," I said, feeling suddenly defiant. "They don't want me, so why should I want them?" And we both got very drunk.

Safety steps to ensure a sound business recovery

Responding to fast-changing market conditions is essential for good business. But where do owner-managed businesses start? By Tony Houghton

IF YOU run an SME or Owner-Managed Business and you want to cope with potentially tough times ahead, you need to pay attention to the 3Ms - management, market and money. If a recession strikes, and all the danger signs are present, firms must act now to ensure they are ready to respond to fast-changing market conditions. It is vital some of these steps are taken if firms want to be around to enjoy the recovery.

Management
FOR MANY SMEs and owner-managed businesses, family involvement can lead to a lack of democracy or a business where ineffective family members hold down jobs which are not necessary or could be done

better by others. Family involvement, if not carefully watched, can lead to an inflexible management team that is insufficiently skilled to effectively steer the company through difficult times.

Directors should ask themselves if the voices of younger, motivated managers are penetrating the ears of a self-opinionated and autocratic chairman? They should also consider if there is a strong finance person on the board, and will they stick to their guns during opposition from others?

Market
THE SME's market position, relative to its competitors, is crucial. Companies may need to review their strategies before the going

gets rough will have many attributes. They may have taken on a "big project" or an exceptionally large contract, for example, which, if it fails, has the potential to bring down the company.

Firms that have lost traditional export markets owing to high exchange rates may no longer be competitive in those markets when rates adjust downwards. Also, firms which have not adjusted to their European customers' requirements by, say, considering the use of the single European currency will be at a disadvantage. Sales-driven companies, where turnover is increasing, have to watch not just margins but the growth in their working capital requirement. When recession looms

and sales volumes fall, banks seek compensating reductions in facilities.

Money
FOR MOST SMEs and owner-managed businesses, the management of cash as a scarce resource is probably the single most important issue in running a business. For all businesses, liquidity management must be competent, reliable and creative. Businesses that do not effectively address certain issues will be caught out. Assuming the management information system is effective, does management make proper use of it? Are cash implications deduced from the trading results explained to the "non-accountant" directors and are action plans developed?

Cashflow and budget forecasting is not a "once-a-year" activity. Companies should continually re-forecast and build in an analysis of the sensitivities of normal commercial hazards.

Also, can the company competently present its cash-management plan to its bankers when dealing with its facility renewal? Has the company really understood and addressed the issues most likely to be of concern to its lenders? If they get this wrong, it is an uphill task to re-establish confidence the second time around.

What's the solution?
SOME SMEs and owner-managed businesses fall in a recession because managers do not recognise or

will not admit they need help from company outsiders. Egos are powerful and dangerous, yet the size of these businesses is such that many are unlikely to have the in-house skills and resources to do what is necessary to manage the change.

In developing strategic plans to face a potential recession, firms should look at reshaping their businesses. The markets for products and services will be carefully reviewed, as will the shape of direct labour costs and manufacturing processes. Action plans must be drawn up to implement any necessary changes.

Companies also should look hard at asset management, cash management, a cost-reduction pro-

gramme and merger and acquisition opportunities.

The message we want to send is that professional advice now could help your business thrive while others go under. It's always better to call a doctor than an undertaker.

Tony Houghton, an experienced insolvency specialist, is head of insolvency at top-10 accountancy firm KPMG LLP. The firm has launched a scheme - the Business Improvement Club - to help build small and medium-sized businesses by providing managers with a forum to exchange ideas on general business issues and to provide practical information to help with the day-to-day running of firms.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

FAX: 0171 293 2505

HUMAN RESOURCES SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

This post is available immediately for an experienced HR Systems Administrator (PS2000 essential). Working in a very busy office, the successful candidate will need to be a self-starter, team player, have excellent keyboard skills and the ability to prioritise and work to deadlines.

We can offer you a friendly working environment, competitive salary and the opportunity to work for a leading national charity dedicated to the care and welfare of ex-Service men and women and their dependants.

Send C.V. with letter to HR Officer, (R & T), the Royal British Legion, 45 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY, by 14th October 1998.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified in two weeks. As a charity, we do not acknowledge applications.

Training Administrator 16K+

Penagon Training is part of the Penagon Group, which covers a variety of IT disciplines. We need an Administrator to follow up provisional bookings, allocate training places, organise Tutor's schedules & liaise closely with the sales team contacting our clients are provided with a professional service. In addition the Administrator covers the reception area when required. Ideally you will have three years' admin exp. & be organised, methodical & PC literate. Previous exp. with a sales team is an advantage as well as knowledge of Lotus Notes. If you can boast excellent interpersonal skills, are team focused & have a good-humoured approach to work, we would like to hear from you.

Please send your CV to Joanne Jeffery, Personnel Officer, Penagon Computing, Lesley Court, 23-33 Strimmo Ground, London, SW1P 2HZ www.penagon.com

ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY
circa £14,000 pa

Long term Administrator/Secretary required for a small shipping brokers based in the City. Must have advanced Word and Excel, excellent telephone manner and accurate typing. The ability to work as part of a small team is also vital.

Please send CV to Elizabeth Langford, O.P. SECRETAN, 5 St Mary at Hill, London EC3R 8EE Closing date 6/10/98

BROWN'S HOTEL

IMMEDIATE VACANCY for SALES SECRETARY/CO-ORDINATOR

We are seeking an enthusiastic, professional, hard-working and self-motivated individual to join the Sales team of our prestigious 5 star hotel in the heart of Mayfair. Applicants must have strong administrative and interpersonal skills and possess an outgoing personality. Excellent opportunity to progress within this high profile, fast-moving sales Department.

Please send or fax your CV to: Personnel Dept, Brown's Hotel, Albermarle Street, Mayfair, London W1T 4BP Fax No. 0171 518 4065

WANTED MANAGER/PA
SALARY AROUND £18,000

for architects office. Common sense and computer talent essential.

Please send CV to: M & M Architects 3 Pine Street, London EC1R 0JH

BRIGHT JUNIOR TRAINEE RECEPTIONIST

Varied duties/friendly team would suit school leaver willing to learn. Maida Vale area, interview enquiries welcome.

0171 265 1848 Joan Newman

SALES OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

required for ECI based company. Responsible for processing export sales, sales databases and general office administration. EXPORT Knowledge, Windows 95 and Office 97 experience required. Contact Mrs Cook on 0171 407 9131

Spanish / English

Secretary required for friendly firm in Holborn working for Spanish lawyer. Must have English mother-tongue with fluent written and spoken Spanish, fast and accurate typing in both languages and a good telephone manner. Open as to age.

Please send CV and handwritten covering letter to: Mr Becker Diaz, Lorenzo & Diaz, 15-17 Jockey's Fields, London WC1R 4NW

Looking to get into Media?

Young secretary required to learn the ropes at friendly and very busy W1 Media Promotions Agency. If you've got a bright personality, good computer skills (Windows 95/98) and some experience of office life, we'll teach you the rest.

Salary £12,000 pa.

Please write enclosing your CV to: Lisa McCroskey, 50 Maddox St, London W1P 9PA

PURCHASE LEDGER CLERK
£9,000 - £10,500

City based Publishing Co seeking self motivated and enthusiastic person to join our Accounts Department. Responsibilities include purchase coding and posting, payments, cashbook, supplier queries, statement reconciliation & general accounts admin. Must be computer literate & able to communicate. Ideal for 2nd jobber.

Please send your CV with a hand written covering letter to: Jerry Johnston, Newmarket Publishing International Ltd, 11 Langway Lane, Woking, Surrey GU24 0PL

Kerr bi-lingual

INT'L BRENTFORD CORPORATE seeks fluent French speaker with Spanish or fluent Italian speaker with French. At least 2 years Customer Services experience? Apply now for an exciting role as Sales & Admin Assistant! Excellent graduate opportunity. £10K-£15K p.a.

Int'l Co. Maidenhead seeks Italian speaking Account Handler for publishing client. Extensive Marketing experience essential. News trade experience adv. £25K p.a.

Call ROISIN FARRELL 0181 810 7839 Fax 0181 998 0388

OFFICE JUNIOR
£10,500

Camden based design agency requires a young bright enthusiastic person to help out in all areas of this friendly busy office. Computer skills an advantage and an excellent telephone manner is essential. Excellent career move for the right candidate. Send CV: George 57a Jamestown Road NW1 7DB

Central London Legal Aid Solicitors require

AUDIO SECRETARY
£18,000

to work for two solicitors in busy criminal department. Must have fast accurate typing skills and be able to cope in a busy environment. Non smoking office.

Please telephone Rachel on 0171 831 1750 (No agencies)

We are an equal opportunities employer

To advertise in this section please call **Valentine Quin** on **0171 323 4491** or **Zara White** on **0171 293 4492**.

Mum is the word

I WORK FOR

SHAILU AND PRITI VYAS WORK FOR THEIR MOTHER, BHARTI VYAS, HOLISTIC BEAUTY THERAPIST

Shailu Vyas: I intended to study pharmacy when I finished school but 15 years ago, whilst helping out Mum and Dad at the salon, I realised that I wanted to work with them permanently. What really spurred me on was seeing a client with bad skin problems being transformed through her therapy treatment from a hunched over person to someone with confidence who could hold her head up high.

I thought that Mum and Dad would disapprove of my decision because it would mean giving up my pharmacy plans and there's an emphasis on study within our Indian culture. But when they saw how much I enjoyed the work they allowed me to stay.

As well as taking a beauty school diploma I had to learn how to co-ordinate the schedules of our 15 staff and administer the salon. It's very important that we trust the staff because we have so many high profile clients, like Belinda Carlisle, Cherie Blair and Chen, who obviously don't want the world to know what treatment they are receiving.

I think people are often scared to work for their mum because they anticipate that they will get bossed around, which in itself creates barriers. The solution is to communicate properly from the start. We have a basic rule that work is for work and home for home life. Sometimes we stray over the boundaries but generally if we have a disagreement at work we leave it here at the end of the day. We work like a team. Sure, Mum's at the forefront but her success is our success.

It's not all *Little House on the Prairie* harmony. We do have arguments and occasionally cry or scream at each other. But my dad, who manages the accounts, is a great arbitrator. He's never resented Mum's success and often says "my daughters are just as good as any son".



Bharti Vyas and daughters Shailu and Priti Vyas make business a family affair

Kalpesh Lathigra

I trained as a hypnotherapist but found it too gloomy. I also had journalistic ambitions but when my family asked me to join the business 10 years ago, it made far more sense to devote my time to promoting my own family rather than working all hours for a stranger. Each of us draws on our own strengths to build the business which means that we have positivity coming from all angles.

I act as Mum's Girl Friday, working through her diary, administering the supply of our products to the right stores and organising her PR. I called her Mum at a recent press meeting and someone told me that it sounded most unprofessional. I explained that our salon workers and even some of our clients call her mum

because they like the familiarity. I felt very protective over her when the press discovered that she was Cherie Blair's therapist and started knocking on our door. It was rather frightening because they were trying to take pictures of my children as well.

I enjoy working for Mum because I respect her both as a person and a professional. She doesn't put on a salon persona and her clients appreciate that. She's worked so hard to keep the family together that even if the business was to fail we would always have each other. When we were children and the family lived in a one-bedroom flat and Mum was working a 12-hour day, she always had time to massage our faces with

Vaseline to keep them soft whilst singing us to sleep. We all have different views and sometimes we shout at each other but we never blame one another because we know that we would only be failing ourselves.

I live over the road from Mum and Shailu lives five minutes away and we meet up every Sunday so we must get on well together.

A lot of people have asked me: "But you are working in the background whilst your mum gets all the credit, doesn't that bother you?" But I don't feel that way at all. In fact, by pushing her forward I push myself because we are Bharti Vyas and Bharti Vyas is us.

INTERVIEWS BY KATIE SAMPTON

Travel troubles



THE TEMP

SOMEONE GOES under a train at Kennington, and you can see from everyone's faces that the first thought that's come to their minds is not, "Oh, poor them", but "Damn!". It's the first word that comes to my mind, followed by the uncharitable thought that suicides always happen at points where they will cause maximum disruption for the maximum percentage of the population.

And it's always during rush-hour. At least, it's the evening rush-hour this time. I was once stuck in a packed train in a tunnel for 45 minutes. It was so packed that it wasn't even possible to move enough to shrug off my winter overcoat. It was like being trapped in a tin of polar bears. Tonight it's six o'clock, and all I have to do is get across London in time to get to bed.

It takes a couple of seconds for anyone to translate the Aramaic that rattles over the speakers, then a collective groan rises from the crowd. "Tuhuh!" says the girl next to me. "Why do they always do this when I'm in a hurry?" "Urrr," says the suited gent beside her. "So selfish." I grunt, haul my enormous bag (Of course, today was the day when I impulse-purchased a decent dictionary) to my shoulder, and make for the escalators.

This is, of course, also the day when I've also decided to break in my new fake-Gucci loafers. I've had them off under the desk for most of the day, but there are still two tender spots on the knuckles of my big toes. As we come into the fading daylight, the air fills with the beep-beep-beep of

mobile phone key-pads. The people around me take three options. The ones with Hermes Scarves, tied to the handles of their leather laptop bags, gesticulate wildly at taxis, whose lights went off the moment the news that the Northern Line had gone down hit the airwaves.

The Lads dressed in Burton and Tie Rack light fags, and head straight for the lighted window of the Station Arms over the road, to wait it out until the bits have been scraped onto a stretcher, and the trains are running again.

I make for the nearest bus stop, accompanied by several score of women with Sainsbury's bags. In situations like this, the British reserve breaks down and people start talking to each other. Well, at least furnish each other with gory details. "I hear," says a woman with grey hair, "that they hardly ever die instantly. They're probably going to have to get in winching equipment to lift the train off him."

The woman on my right launches into a story about how she had been on the District Line platform at Victoria once, and there had been this man who had become so fascinated watching the mice on the tracks, that he'd failed to spot the train coming in. "Got him right on the head," she said. "Did he die?" said greyhair.

"Damn. I didn't stay to watch. He certainly wasn't moving."

Five buses go past, people hanging from the poles, and the conductors trying to prise their fingers free and kick them off. The queue only goes down as people give up and start walking towards town. I look at my watch, seven o'clock, look at my shoes.

A cab goes past and someone hails it. "Anyone going to Chelsea?" she cries. I jump in. It's like the Blitz: five strangers wondering whether a shared taxi is like a lift, in which case we mustn't talk. Eventually: "Third time this week," says the girl who hailed the cab, and everyone hursts into conversation: "Can't believe it...". "Stuck in a tunnel for an hour and a half...". "My boss went under a train after our Christmas party. Lost an arm...". "Why do you think they never do themselves in at suburban stations...".

"Ah, well," says the girl who hailed the cab. "I should be home for 7.30 anyway." "I'm getting a takeaway and going straight to bed," says someone called Dawn.

Just north of Covent Garden, the traffic grinds to a halt. By quarter past eight, we've moved maybe 100 yards and the meter has almost hit £20.

We've run out of conversation, and are sitting there, clutching our bags and gazing out of the windows.

The driver pushes his window back. "Sorry, ladies," he says. "They're just been on the radio. Apparently, there's someone under a bus at Shaftesbury Avenue. You might as well get out and walk."

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

FAX: 0171 293 2505

HEMPSONS SOLICITORS COVENT GARDEN LEGAL SECRETARIES

(2 Positions in Healthcare Litigation)

We are looking to recruit 2 Secretaries - one to work for an Assistant Solicitor and another to work for a Partner. Candidates should have solid secretarial skills with a minimum of 1 year's experience in Medical Negligence, minimum 70 wpm and ideally, will be familiar with Word Perfect 5.1 for Dos and/or Windows 95. Salary circa £21-£22k - depending on position.

We offer a pleasant, friendly working environment within a well established practice, a great location, paid overtime, interesting work, client contact and the opportunity to get really involved in the work of the teams.

Please apply in writing, in confidence, detailing a daytime contact number to: Sheila Flanagan, Hempsons Solicitors, 33 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8NL. No agencies please.

HEMPSONS SOLICITORS

LEGAL SECRETARY £NE6

with at least five years recent relevant experience of commercial property work required to work for partner at busy and expanding friendly law firm near Bond Street Tube.

Your secretarial and inter personal skills must be first class and you will need to be fully conversant with Word Perfect 5.1 to an advanced level.

Top salary for the right candidate. Please apply in writing with CV to:

The Recruitment Partner
Nathan, Sloman
Carey House
78 Wigmore Street
London W1H 9DQ
(Fax No: 0171 486 4803)
(STRICTLY NO AGENCIES)

Small Holborn firm of solicitors seek experienced

Secretaries

to join busy friendly team for litigation and property work. Salary negotiable. Please reply with CV to: Mrs Lynne Stedman, Messrs Brown Cooper, 7 Southampton Place, London EC1A 2DR.

LEGAL SEC

£22K

Love typing? Join this fun, friendly WC2 based Co. property division. Min 2 years legal experience essential. 60 wpm, Audio and W4W7. Please call Elizabeth on: Tel: 0171 938 1718 Fax: 0171 937 3164 Masterlock Recruitment

LEGAL SECRETARIES £16K aae

Small friendly firm of solicitors requires experienced legal secs. You will need experience in litigation, personal injury, road traffic accident cases and medical negligence. Fast accurate typing with a sound knowledge of W4W.

In the first instance send CV to: Michelle Ellis, Messrs Farrell-Brewer, 7 Midgrave Chambers, Midgrave Road, Sutton SM2 6LE.

COME FLY WITH ME! Top Sales Execs sought for Richmond based Financial Co. Fluent German or Spanish with French adv. and proven sales record. Confident negotiation skills and Aviation sector experience a must. Must be willing to travel. Salary £30K AAE.

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs... let's Co. Richmond requires organised individual with Spanish or German for top PA role. You will have a good telephone manner and your methodical approach will bring order to the office. Experience in a Sales and Marketing environment adv. Excellent Word, Excel and PowerPoint. £20K AAE...

Call ROISIN FARRELL
0181 810 7839 Fax 0181 998 0388

HAMPSTEAD SECRETARIAL

PERMANENT

Wide range of opportunities for skilled / experienced PAs, Secretaries & Administrators

Great rates if you have excellent IT skills and 50+ wpm

Call now for immediate bookings and interviews

Tel: 0171 435 8114/8877 Fax: 0171 435 7495

42 Roslyn Hill, London NW3 1ND

HR CONSULTANT (EMEA)

MIDDLESEX £28-30K

This prestigious multi-sited telecommunications organisation is actively seeking to recruit a professional HR Consultant, qualified to IPO level with a minimum of 3/5 years as a generalist, with experience of working with Client groups, and specialising in Europe, Middle East, and Africa. You will have a high level of integrity, interviewing and report writing skills as well as experience of European recruitment, a European language skill will be a distinct advantage.

Please call Ruth at

The Payroll Partnership

on 0181 970 2150, or fax your CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CV immediately to 0181 900 9448

CHAIRMAN'S PA

£25,000 - £30,000

Bookkeeping business at the heart of London's West End needs a PA to keep the responsibility this job will offer. Excellent skills will be needed for the client liaison, diary, travel co-ordination and correspondence plus. The well set someone who enjoys the pace of production.

Please CV's to 0171 734 6965

Tel: 0171 734 6965

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

Sarah Stewart-Smith Recruitment

NEW FILMS

CUBE (15)

Director: Vincenzo Natali
Starring: Maurice Dean Wint, David Hewlett, Nicole de Boer
This Canadian science-fiction thriller takes an ingenious idea - a group of strangers trapped within a gigantic booby-trapped cube try to figure out their escape route and the meaning of their existence - but reduces the intellectual possibilities to the condescending level of a NCSE study guide. Some inventively gory effects and resourceful production design almost compensate.
West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza

DEEP RISING (15)

Director: Stephen Sommers
Starring: Treat Williams, Famke Janssen, Jason Flemyng, Anthony Heald
Ramshackle B-movie-style thriller about a cruise liner attacked by a mysterious and savage underwater monster. Treat Williams copes manfully with the abysmal dialogue, and our own Jason Flemyng gets to fire automatic weapons at big slimy beasts, which is not the sort of thing that an English actor gets to do every day of the week.
West End: Odeon West End

SECRET DEFENSE (PG)

Director: Jacques Rivette
Starring: Sandrine Bonnaire, Jerzy Radziewicz, Gregoire Colin (subtitles)
See The Independent Recommends, right
West End: Renoir

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Director: Peter & Bobby Farrelly
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, Matt Dillon, Lee Evans, Chris Elliott
There's Something About Mary is the new comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamelessly funny crimes against humanity: Dumb and Dumber and Kingpin). But it's not the movie's steady trickle of off-colour gags involving bodily fluids and mistreated animals that is outrageous so much as the fact that most of them have already been revealed

months in advance by the picture's trailer. If you have seen that, then you've experienced the film's highlights. For those who haven't, I pledge not to reveal any of the horrible little surprises that the Farrellys have waiting for you.

In a reversal of their earlier work, this new film has a promising premise but fails, for the most part, to deliver on it. Ben Stiller is heartbreaking as the nerdy Ted, who ruins his big Prom Night date with the local beauty, Mary (Cameron Diaz), when he has an ugly accident with his zipper. Flash forward 13 years, and Ted's life is in limbo because he can't get over his former near-date. He hires a sleazy private eye, Pat (Matt Dillon), to locate Mary, but this nostalgic search becomes a bizarre love triangle when Pat develops his own obsession with the woman.

The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. While it's true that the likes of Sleepless in Seattle never accommodated the body-horror comedy on display here, the gags never amount to anything more than vulgarising on a bland cake.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Corner, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Corner, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

WOO (15)

Director: Daisy V.S. Mayer
Starring: Jada Pinkett Smith, Tommy Davidson, Duane Martin
Jada Pinkett Smith and executive producer John Singleton (who directed Boys n the Hood) are only two of the talents wasted in this witless comedy. What plot there is revolves around the love life of a woman named Woo (Pinkett Smith), and the efforts of various suitors to bed her. The jokes and skits will prompt only embarrassed silences, but, more despairingly, the film evidently couldn't care less about its characters.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BABYMOOTHER (15)

An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and dresses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Anjela Lauren Smith), a "baby-mother" who longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her son and daughter. West End: Ritzy Cinema

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground but is acted and shot with such magnificent bravado that its lack of originality is never a problem. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minerva, Phoenix Cinema

CHARACTER (KARAKTER) (15)

Mike Van Diem's intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal was this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language film. It certainly comes equipped with what the Academy adores, but the picture is never as gripping as it should have been. West End: Curzon Mayfair

COUSIN BETTE (15)

Baltac's novel about romance and deception in 19th-century France is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

THE DOOM GENERATION (18)

Gregg Araki continues his investigation of apocalyptic modern America with this gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Fun for the first half-hour, deadening for the rest. West End: ABC Piccadilly

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one but Dr Dolittle proves that his talents are surprisingly pliable. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology and agrees to help a New York magazine editor, Kristin Scott Thomas, whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MISSING A FOOL (15)

Yet another comedy about the male fear of commitment and yet another film with nothing original to say on the matter. Stars David Schwimmer best known as Ross in Friends. West End: Virgin Trocadero

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Rachel Weiss, Catherine McCormack and Anna Friel are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here, but very nicely done. West End: Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

This cerebral portrait of a sensual situation - the club scene of the early 1980s - is dry and a little stale. Chloe Sevigny, who has the look of a wounded animal, is especially good. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15)

The latest instalment of the ingratiating comedy-thriller series. This time, Detectives Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Murtagh (Danny Glover) are up against the Triads in the counterfeiting trade, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age. A largely joyless, automated ride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Corner, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Guy Ritchie's film follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but its defining characteristic is a resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)

Derek Jacobi gives a ferocious performance as Francis Bacon in this first feature from the acclaimed and adventurous experimental filmmaker John Maybury. Among the film's many technical accomplishments are the blurred, twisted and grotesque visual compositions which transform simple images into thrashing flesh storms that strongly evoke the artist's work. West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill

THE MAGIC WORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and, courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's World War II drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis - it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences that are branded on the memory. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Corner, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully in their first big-screen outing, involving a shift secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging; through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness. West End: Odeon West End, Virgin Trocadero

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey



SECRET DEFENSE, which translates as Top Secret, finds Jacques Rivette sprinkling his magic dust on a routine story about a young woman (Sandrine Bonnaire) snatched between impotence and aggression in the search for her father's murderer. It's Hamlet in slow-motion. Rivette has the hungry eye of a voyeur combined with the sad heart of a wounded romantic. Under his watchful gaze, the most innocuous act creeps with foreboding; he very subtly makes you squirm for a full 80 minutes. Only one problem. In Secret Defense, there are still another 80 to go.

On release
In David Mamet's intricate thriller, The Spanish Prisoner (above), Joe Ross (Campbell Scott) develops a top-secret formula. His boss (Ben Gazzara) is demanding his signature to secure loyalty, but an enigmatic new acquaintance (Steve Martin) warns Joe that he is about to be swindled. A playful exercise in twisting plausibility and expectations.
On release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

UNE TEMPETE (below), a radical deconstruction of Shakespeare's last play by Aimé Césaire, the French-West Indian poet, is receiving its UK premiere 30 years after it was published. Mick Gordon's stylish, funny staging brings out the stark ideological differences between Caliban (Andrew Demiss) and Ariel (Michael Wildman) as they consider how to gain their freedom from the slave-driving Prospero.
The Gate, London W11 (0171-229 5387) 7.30pm
Big Space Productions live up to their name, utilising every inch of the Bridewell's split-level areas to present a robust, visceral and visually arresting synthesis of the story of the House of Abreus, The Killing Floor.
The Bridewell, London EC4 (0171-936 3456) 7.30pm



Art Richard Ingleby

A FIRST BIG London show for Chris Offill (right), the Jerwood and Turner prize-nominated man of the moment who paints super-decorative swirls smattered with lumps of elephant dung. Behind all the glitter and the silly titles lies a serious attack on society's racial and sexual stereotypes.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (0171-402 8075) to 1 Nov
Stephen Chambers is another painter whose instant, decorative appeal masks more lingering concerns. This exhibition of his subtly layered paintings selected from work made over the last seven years marks the beginning of his year-long Fellowship at Kettle's Yard.
Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124) to 1 Nov



Classical Duncan Hadfield

ONE OF THE world's greatest violinists, Pinchas Zukerman, celebrates his 50th birthday by teaming up with the English Chamber Orchestra in Beethoven's magnificent Violin Concerto. Aside from playing the precarious solo line, Zukerman himself directs the work; and, in the concert's first half, conducts the orchestra in Mozart's 41st and last symphony, Jupiter.
Barbican Hall, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.30pm
Sir Simon Rattle's successor as Chief Conductor of the CBSO, the Ffno Sakari Oramo (right), finds himself maintaining a hectic schedule of concert-giving. In tonight's event, the very young Schubert's assured Symphony No 1 is set alongside Richard Strauss's no less precocious tone poem Death and Transfiguration.
Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) 7.30pm



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) • Baker Street The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.55pm
Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870 9020404) • Picc Crt The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.55pm
There's Something About Mary 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
The Last Days Of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm, 10.50pm, 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) • Piccadilly Circus The Doom Generation 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm, 10.55pm
8pm Love And Death On Long Island 1.05pm, 6pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870 9020402) • Leicester Square Hana-Bi 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm
The Whistler 12.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-9020403) • Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Le Bossu 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Day After Tomorrow 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
6.10pm, 8.40pm Zero Effect 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870 9020414) • Tottenham Court Road Lethal Weapon 4 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Private Ryan 1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm
There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) • Moorgate/Barbican Lane The Devil 8.40pm Red River 6pm
Saving Private Ryan 7.30pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) • 50aue Square Love Is The Devil 1.25pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common Lethal Weapon 4 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm
There's Something About Mary 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) • Green Park Character 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE (0171-703 4966) • Elephant & Castle Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm
There's Something About Mary 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0950-888990) • Leicester Square Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 4pm, 8pm
Slinging Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 9.05pm
Love Is The Devil 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm (+ Short: The Queen's Monastery)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0171-9070718) • Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm, 4.20pm, 8.20pm
There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) • Charing Cross One Femme Mariée 6.30pm, 8.30pm
La Vie De Jésus 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Love Is The Devil 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Men With Guns 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINERVA (0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park Corner/Kingsbridge Le Bossu 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate There's Something About Mary 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0171-315 4229) • Camden Town The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.50pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm
There's Something About Mary 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) • Piccadilly Circus Titanic 2pm, 7.15pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) • High Street Kensington Cube 4.35pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm
The Horse Whisperer 1pm The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.50pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm
There's Something About Mary 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) • Leic Sq There's Something About Mary 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) • Marble Arch The Horse Whisperer 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm
Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm
There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) • Swiss Cottage Cube 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm
A Spanish Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
There's Something About Mary 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm
Secret Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Shaftesbury Avenue The Devil 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo White, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Clive Warren, 6.30 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session, 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode, 9.40 John Peel, 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs, 12.00 The Breakfast Show, 2.00 Charlie Jordan, 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.00 John Dunn, 7.00 Nick Barrow, 8.00 Mike Harding, 9.00 Gloria Estefan's Sounds of Miami, 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 on 2, 10.30 Nicky Horse, 12.05 Steve Madden, 3.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(92.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week: Gershwin, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, 4.00 Choral Evensong, 5.00 In Tune, 8.00 Performance on 3: Live from the Barbican Hall, London, English Chamber Orchestra, directed by Pinchas Zukerman (Mozart: Symphony No 41 in C (Jupiter). See Pick of the Day).

8.40 A Sound Read: Ivan Hewitt returns with the series that reviews the latest books on music. This month, writer and professor of English Lisa Jardine and lecturer and broadcaster David Huxley discuss the revealing memoirs of Janáček's wife Zdenka, a widow who of opera characters, and a new book by Lydia Goehr which sets where music and politics meet. 9.00 Concert, part 2: Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D, 9.55 Postscript: Twenty-five years after W.H. Auden's death, poets and critics reassess his poetry and make a personal selection of readings (3/5), 10.35 Ensemble: Penny Gore introduces Russian music, including Borodin's rarely heard piano quintet. Borodin was typical of many 19th-

century Russian composers in having another full-time job, so that his composing was a spare-time activity. The performers are Nelson Freire and the Praxak Quartet, 10.45 Night Waves: Patrick Wright hears first-night reactions from Liverpool, where Jonathan Harvey's new play 'Guiding Star' tackles the legacy of the Hillsborough disaster and its impact on one family torn apart by survival guilt. He also talks to poet Michael Longley, whose new selection draws on more than thirty years of writing poetry of love, nature, war and remembrance and is infused with experience of his life in Northern Ireland, elephant dung makes him one of the most innovative young artists working in Britain today.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 Midweek, 9.45 White Cargo, 10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour, 10.00 NEWS: Crimscapes (R), 11.30 Up the Garden Path (R), 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Inspec-tor (R), 2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.45 Afternoon Play: The Final Furlong. See Pick of the Day, 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time, 3.30 Pong's Perdue: Five Reflections on Smell.

PICK OF THE DAY

YOU MAY have heard of George Dodd on the news recently, as the man who designed a device that can diagnose disease by smelling the patient's breath. Scientists Ask Questions (9pm R4) casts him in another role - of primary school teacher - where he has been conducting an experiment in teaching complex chemistry to 10-year-olds. Is his scheme the shape of education

to come? Bernard Cribbins (right) performs a monologue by Christopher Reason about old age and broken romance in The Final Furlong (2.15pm R4). Pinchas Zukerman is conductor and soloist in the Jupiter Symphony and Beethoven's Violin Concerto, for his own 50th birthday concert, broadcast live in Performance on 3 (8pm R3).

ROBERT HANKS



century Russian composers in having another full-time job, so that his composing was a spare-time activity. The performers are Nelson Freire and the Praxak Quartet, 10.45 Night Waves: Patrick Wright hears first-night reactions from Liverpool, where Jonathan Harvey's new play 'Guiding Star' tackles the legacy of the Hillsborough disaster and its impact on one family torn apart by survival guilt. He also talks to poet Michael Longley, whose new selection draws on more than thirty years of writing poetry of love, nature, war and remembrance and is infused with experience of his life in Northern Ireland, elephant dung makes him one of the most innovative young artists working in Britain today.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 Midweek, 9.45 White Cargo, 10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour, 10.00 NEWS: Crimscapes (R), 11.30 Up the Garden Path (R), 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Inspec-tor (R), 2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.45 Afternoon Play: The Final Furlong. See Pick of the Day, 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time, 3.30 Pong's Perdue: Five Reflections on Smell.

century Russian composers in having another full-time job, so that his composing was a spare-time activity. The performers are Nelson Freire and the Praxak Quartet, 10.45 Night Waves: Patrick Wright hears first-night reactions from Liverpool, where Jonathan Harvey's new play 'Guiding Star' tackles the legacy of the Hillsborough disaster and its impact on one family torn apart by survival guilt. He also talks to poet Michael Longley, whose new selection draws on more than thirty years of writing poetry of love, nature, war and remembrance and is infused with experience of his life in Northern Ireland, elephant dung makes him one of the most innovative young artists working in Britain today.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 Midweek, 9.45 White Cargo, 10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour, 10.00 NEWS: Crimscapes (R), 11.30 Up the Garden Path (R), 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Inspec-tor (R), 2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.45 Afternoon Play: The Final Furlong. See Pick of the Day, 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time, 3.30 Pong's Perdue: Five Reflections on Smell.

century Russian composers in having another full-time job, so that his composing was a spare-time activity. The performers are Nelson Freire and the Praxak Quartet, 10.45 Night Waves: Patrick Wright hears first-night reactions from Liverpool, where Jonathan Harvey's new play 'Guiding Star' tackles the legacy of the Hillsborough disaster and its impact on one family torn apart by survival guilt. He also talks to poet Michael Longley, whose new selection draws on more than thirty years of writing poetry of love, nature, war and remembrance and is infused with experience of his life in Northern Ireland, elephant dung makes him one of the most innovative young artists working in Britain today.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 Midweek, 9.45 White Cargo, 10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour, 10.00 NEWS: Crimscapes (R), 11.30 Up the Garden Path (R), 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Inspec-tor (R), 2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.45 Afternoon Play: The Final Furlong. See Pick of the Day, 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time, 3.30 Pong's Perdue: Five Reflections on Smell.

SATELLITE TV AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Taken Away (1996) (99479), 8.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (21285), 10.00 Stepping Out (1991) (81052), 12.00 Fly Away Home (1991) (16181), 2.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (21285), 3.30 The West Side Waltz (1995) (99301), 5.30 Fly Away Home (1991) (16181), 7.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (1995) (99301), 9.00 What Rats Wrote (1995) (99301), 10.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (21285), 12.00 Fly Away Home (1991) (16181), 2.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (21285), 3.30 The West Side Waltz (1995) (99301), 5.30 Fly Away Home (1991) (16181), 7.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (1995) (99301), 9.00 What Rats Wrote (1995) (99301), 10.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (21285), 12.00 Fly Away Home (1991) (16181).

SKY MOVIE
6.00 Divided by Hate (1996) (930653), 7.45 Chasing the Deer (1994) (930652), 9.30 Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1997) (930653), 11.05 Sabrina (1995) (930653), 1.30 Anand (1995) (930653), 3.00 Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1997) (930653), 5.00 Sabrina (1995) (930653), 7.00 Earth Zero (1996) (930653), 9.00 Mars Attacks! (1996) (930653), 11.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (21285), 12.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (21285), 2.45 The People Next Door (1995) (930653), 4.30 - 6.00 Earth Zero (1996) (930653), 8.00 Taken Away (1996) (99479), 9.30 - 11.00 Taken Away (1996) (99479), 12.00 Taken Away (1996) (99479).

SKY CINEMA
6.00 Fire Down Below (1997) (930652), 8.00 The Hustler (1961) (930652), 8.45 Crimes and Misdemeanors (1995) (930652), 10.00 Hollywood Hall of Fame (1995) (930652), 11.00 Pick of the Day, 10.30 Holiday Affair (1994) (930652), 12.00 Pick of the Day, 12.00 When the Club Goes (1995) (930652), 1.30 Woodstock (1970) (930652), 4.30 - 6.00 Cattle Queen of the West (1994) (930652).

JAYVO
6.00 The A-Team (1983) (930652), 8.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (1995) (930652), 9.30 Cops (1989) (930652), 10.00 The Basement Tapes (1994) (930652), 11.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 12.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 2.45 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 4.30 - 6.00 Earth Zero (1996) (930653), 8.00 Taken Away (1996) (99479), 9.30 - 11.00 Taken Away (1996) (99479), 12.00 Taken Away (1996) (99479).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rick Hunt Spies (1995) (930652), 4.30 Driving Partners (1995) (930652), 5.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 6.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 7.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 8.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 9.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 10.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 11.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652), 12.00 The People Next Door (1995) (930652).

WELSH
6.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 8.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 10.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 12.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 2.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 4.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 6.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 8.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 10.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 12.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652).

WELSH
6.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 8.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 10.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 12.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 2.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 4.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 6.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 8.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 10.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652), 12.00 Wales Today (1998) (930652).

PICK OF THE DAY

IN THE aptly titled What Rats Wrote (8pm, Sky Premier), contrasting barriers - Natascha McElhone (Surviving Picasso) and James Frain (Loch Ness) - clash in court over a young American (Parker Posey) from Dazed and Confused. She married a man three times her age, who left her everything and, lived at inheriting nothing, his son (Charles Dance) is contesting the will. Inevitably, away from the world of wigs,

a chemistry develops between the two lawyers. Robert Mitchum (right), the subject of Hollywood Hall of Fame (10pm Sky Cinema) said: 'I've survived because I work cheap and don't take up too much time.' He was being too modest; he brings an easy-going charm to the screen, as in Holiday Affair (10.30pm Sky Cinema), a 1949 romantic comedy in which he features opposite Janet Leigh.

JAMES RAMPTON



6.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 8.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 10.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 12.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 2.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 4.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 6.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 8.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 10.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 12.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652).

SKY ONE
7.00 Alien Fighters (1972), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652).

SKY TWO
7.00 Alien Fighters (1972), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

6.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 8.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 10.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 12.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 2.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 4.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 6.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 8.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 10.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 12.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652).

SKY ONE
7.00 Alien Fighters (1972), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652).

SKY TWO
7.00 Alien Fighters (1972), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

6.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 8.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 10.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 12.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 2.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 4.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 6.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 8.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 10.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652), 12.00 Survivors: No Survivors (1998) (930652).

SKY ONE
7.00 Alien Fighters (1972), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652).

SKY TWO
7.00 Alien Fighters (1972), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 2.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 4.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 6.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 8.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 10.30 Games World (1995) (930652), 12.30 Games World (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1995) (930652).

